

Hibernia

601. f
10 f

A

LIST OF THE ABSENTEES OF IRELAND. AND

An Estimate of the Yearly Value of their Estates
and Incomes spent Abroad.

WITH

239

Observations on the Trade and Manufactures of IRELAND,
and the Means to encourage, improve, and extend them;
with some Reasons why GREAT-BRITAIN should be more
indulgent to IRELAND, in particular Points of Trade.

ALSO,

Some Reasons and Observations why Absentees should be obliged to contribute to the Support and Welfare of the Country they derive their Honours, Estates, and Incomes from.

Humbly submitted to the Consideration of the
Legillature of IRELAND.

THE THIRD EDITION.

In this Edition the List of the Absentees are greatly Amended,
and set forth, as they stand in the present Year 1769.

TO WHICH IS ADDED,

NOTES AND AN APPENDIX,

Containing some material Transactions that have occurred since the Publication of the former Editions, in 1767. With Observations upon them, and the ACT of PARLIAMENT, passed the last Session for laying a Tax of 4s. in the Pound on Absentees.

*Vincit Amor Patriæ
Si quid novissi rectius issis,
Candidus imperti; Si non, bis utere mecum.*

D U B L I N:

Printed by GEORGE FAULKNER, in PARLIAMENT-STREET. 1769.



A

L I S T

OF

Lords, Gentlemen, and Others,

Who having Estates, Employments or Pensions in
IRELAND, spend the same Abroad; together with
an Estimate of the yearly Value of the same,

As taken in *January, 1769.*

First Class comprehends those who live constantly
Abroad, and are seldom, or never, seen in *Ireland.*

Pensions, Civil, Military, and *French.*

		£.
LADY Kilmanseg	—	750
Lady How	—	500
Mrs. West	—	400
Executors of the Earl of Harrington	—	2600
Lady Cecilia Finch	—	400
Lady Young	—	600
	A 2	Ann

Ann Palmer	—	—	900
Earl of Jersey	—	—	1500
Executor of A. Schutz	—	—	1200
Christopher Shroder	—	—	1000
John Cooper	—	—	500
John Roberts	—	—	800
George Hamilton	—	—	400
Earl of Albemarle	—	—	800
Lord Grantham	—	—	2000
Thomas Bourcheir	—	—	400
Earl of Cholmondeley	—	—	3700
Baron de Sporke	—	—	1200
Lord George Beauclerk	—	—	400
Lady Waldgrave	—	—	800
Princess of Hesse	—	—	5000
Jobt. S. Carleton	—	—	500
Duke of Brunswick	—	—	2000
Sir Edward Hawke	—	—	2000
Executors of Lady Yarmouth	—	—	4000
Lord Bathurst	—	—	2000
Lord Tyrawly	—	—	500
Ann Pitt	—	—	1000
Gasper Gravenkop	—	—	400
Lady Beauclerk	—	—	400
William Champney	—	—	1070
Frederick Ernest	—	—	1000
Princess Amelia	—	—	1000
Thomas Cumming	—	—	300
Philip Francis	—	—	600
Sjr William York	—	—	1200
Melcher Guy Dickens	—	—	500
George Charles	—	—	1000
Children of Countes of Upper Offory	—	—	600
Edward Weston	—	—	500
Duke of Athol	—	—	2000
Princess Augusta	—	—	5000
Lady Louisa Lennox	—	—	500
			Mrs.

Mrs. K. Bathurst	—	400
Mrs. Mordaunt	—	450
Capt. Lieut. Nicholas Kelloway	—	855
Lieut. Col. Robert Clerk	—	600
Duke of Gloucester	—	3000
Duke of Cumberland	—	3000
Above £ 400 yearly	—	Total £ 64425
Under £ 400 yearly	—	8950
		Total 73375

Note, All the Pensions, Civil, Military, and French,
amount to £ 96667.

Duke of Devonshire	—	12000
Marquis of Rockingham	—	10000
Marquis of Carnarvan	—	2000
Earl of Cork	—	4000
Mountrath	—	7000
Egmont	—	6000
Hertford	—	12000
Donegal	—	22000
Abercorn	—	12000
Besborough	—	10000
Countess of Blesington	—	4000
Earl of Upper Ossory	—	4000
Shelburn	—	12,000
Thomond	—	8000
Ludlow	—	4000
Stanhope	—	1000
Portsmouth	—	4000
Powis	—	3000
Cartherlough	—	2000
Darnley	—	7000
Countess Dowager Shelburn	—	7000
Lord Visc. Middleton	—	4000
		Lord

Lord	Visc. Ashbrook	—	3000
	Weymouth	—	3000
	Palmerston	—	4000
Lord	Courtney	—	10000
	Villars	—	8000
	Digby	—	3000
	Fortescue	—	1200
	Bellew	—	4000
	Carysfort	—	3000
	Strange	—	3000
	Beaulieu	—	2500
	Clive	—	1700
	Dysert	—	2000
	Cahir	—	3000
	Bingley	—	3500
	Dacre	—	3000
	Dillon	—	6000
Heirs of Lord Blunden		—	3000
	Sir Laurence Dundas	—	2500
	Sir William York	—	1700
	General Montague	—	5000
	James Lennox Dutton, Esq;	—	10,000
	Hon. Thomas Fitzmaurice	—	4000
	Heirs of Admiral Warren	—	3000
	Hon. John Barry	—	3000
	Francis Bernard, Esq;	—	10,000
	Admiral Rowley	—	1200
	— Needham, Esq;	—	5000
	Arthur Annesley, Esq;	—	4000
	Richard Hull, Esq;	—	700
	Sir George Mc. Cartney	—	1500
	— Edwards, Esq;	—	3000
	James Whitshead, Esq;	—	2000
	Welbore Ellis	—	1000
	Thomas Staunton	—	700
	William Bernard	—	800
	Francis Annesley	—	2500
			Stephen

Stephen Ram	—	—	800
Hon. Richard Barry	—	—	700
General Burton	—	—	700
Hon. Chichester	—	—	1000
Sir William Penn's Heirs	—	—	1400
George Clive, Esq;	—	—	1500
Arch. Edmonstone, Esq;	—	—	800
David Ker, Esq;	—	—	1000
Edmond Bazil, Esq;	—	—	3000
Heirs of Lord Fane	—	—	5000
Sir George Savill	—	—	2000
Lady Echlin	—	—	800
Sir William Rowley	—	—	3000
Col. Shirley	—	—	2000
Arthur Barry, Esq;	—	—	1600
John Taaf, Esq;	—	—	800
Murray, of Broughten	—	—	3000
Col. Sabine	—	—	600
Mr. Palmer	—	—	600
Heirs of Jolybeart, Esq;	—	—	800
Coheires of Rathcormuck Estate,	—	—	1200
Edward Southwell, Esq;	—	—	5000
Samuel Campbell, Esq;	—	—	2000
Joseph Cain, Esq;	—	—	700
Carr, Esq;	—	—	1000
Herbert, Esq;	—	—	1500
Worthington, Esq;	—	—	1200
Alexander, Esq;	—	—	800
Hamilton, Esq; Killeagh	—	—	800
Aston, Esq;	—	—	600
Colonel Graham	—	—	1000
Sloan, Esq;	—	—	6000
Bridges, Esq;	—	—	1500
Hamilton, Esq;	—	—	800
Ellis, Esq;	—	—	1200
Ashroby, Esq;	—	—	1500
Clotworthy Upton, Esq;	—	—	1500
Widow Richardson	—	—	1500
		Robert	

Robert Adair, Esq;	—	1200
Col. Stephenson	—	2000
St. John, Esq;	—	1800
Warringford, Esq;	—	800
Robert Butler, of Ballyragget,	—	3000
Henry Obrien, Esq;	—	2500
Thomas Taaf, Esq;	—	1500
London Society	—	8000
Several Corporations in England	—	3500
Sir Peter Leicester	—	800
Sir Peter Denis's Heirs	—	1000
	—	—
	£	371900

Second Class comprehends those who live generally Abroad, and visit *Ireland* occasionally, for a very short Time.

Earl of Clanricarde	—	8000
Hillsborough	—	7000
Farnham	—	6000
Anglesea	—	6000
Kerry	—	4000
Clanbrazill	—	3000
Barrymore	—	8000
Mazareene	—	4000
Lord Vis. Fitz-William	—	4000
Cunningham	—	4500
Clare	—	6000
Milton	—	14000
Lord Gormanstown	—	2000
Molesworth	—	2500
Lord		

Lord Southwell	—	5000
Lady St. Leger	—	600
Sir William Mayne, Bart.	—	300
Sir Henry Echlin, Bart.	—	800
Hon. Richard Ponsonby,	—	1200
Pierpoint Burton	—	3000
Alexander Boyde	—	1200
James Adair, Esq;	—	1000
Thomas John Medlicot, Esq;	—	3500
Shirley, Esq; W. Shire,	—	5000
		117800

Third Class comprehends those who live generally in *Ireland*, but were occasionally absent in 1769, for Health, Pleasure, or Business.

Note, Their Number is generally the same; for if some come Home, others go Abroad and supply their Places.

I have now before me a List of fifty seven Lords and Gentlemen comprehended within this Class, but I forbear mentioning them, as they happened to be Abroad accidentally only (I may say) at that Time, and they are Men that have the Interest of *Ireland* as much at Heart, and lament the Injury and Loss it sustains by its Absentees, as any Men. The Annual Income of whose Estates amounts to upwards of

99000 £

Persons possessed of Employments and Offices,
absent in 1769.

Principal Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant	4000
Post Office	1800
Lord Viscount Clare, Hon. James Grenville, Earl of Cornwallis, Vice-Treasurers of Ireland	9000
Hugh V. Jones, and John Milbank, Esqrs. Commissioners of the Revenue	2000
Richard Rigby, Esq; Master of the Rolls, 2000l. a Year, and as much more com- puted for 8 Places in his Gift, worth each upwards of 3000l.	4000
William Hamilton, Esq; Chancellor of the Exchequer	1600
Lord Clanbrassill, Chief Remembrancer of the Exchequer	2200
General Conway, Clerk of Hannaper	600
Lord George Sackville, Clerk of the Coun- cil.	1200
Richard Vernon, Esq; Clerk of the Quit Rents	500
Charles Fitzroy Scudamore, Esq; Cursitor in Chancery	300
William Cheshire, Philazer in Common Pleas	200
Sir William Knatchbull, Exigenter in do.	300
Hon. William Molesworth, Surveyor Ge- neral	400
Robert Wood, Master of the Revels	500
— Hay, State Musician	400
Sir Robert Wilmont, Solicitor in <i>England</i>	1200
Lord Harrington, Customer in Dublin	500
Henry Tilson, Craner in do.	400
Register Prerogative	600
	Dr.

Dr. Robinson, Lord Primate	6000
Cox, Arch Bishop of Cashell	3500
Young, Bishop of Leighlin	1600
Jackson, Bishop of Kildare	1700
Andrews, Provost of Trinity College	
Dublin	2000
Andrews, S. F. T. C. D.	500
Lewis, Dean of Ossory	500
Fletcher Dean of Kildare	600
Ryder Dean of Lismore	600
Jebb Dean of Kilmore	600
Coote Dean of Kilfenora	400
Pullein, Rector of St. Catherine's, Dublin,	
&c.	500
Stone Archdeacon of Meath	1200
	<hr/>
	£. 72,200

N. B. There is no Person (except the 3 Officers in Chancery and Common Pleas) mentioned in the above List, whose Income is under 400l. yearly in *Ireland*.

Spent Abroad yearly by those whose Income is under 400l. a Year, either for the most Part Abroad, or go there occasionally for Pleasure or Health, 60,000

- Half of these are supposed to belong to the first Class, and the other Half equally to the other two.

Travelling Expences of Merchants, Dealers and Traders, who go over yearly in great Numbers

from <i>Ireland</i> to <i>England</i> to buy or sell Commodities,	15,000
Spent yearly in the Education of Children of Protestants, and Men of Fortune, at <i>Oxford</i> and <i>Cambridge</i> , and the Schools in <i>England</i> , and of Children of Papists in Foreign Colleges, and Travelling Charges and Expences of young Gentlemen and others Abroad,	35,000
Spent yearly by young Students at the several Inns of Court,	9,000
Spent in Law-suits on Appeals to the House of Lords, Courts of Delegates, Writs of Error to the Court of King's Bench in <i>England</i> , Opinions and Advice of Council there on several Occasions,	15,000
Spent in Attendance and Application for Employments Ecclesiastical, Civil and Military, and other Occasions,	15,000
It appears by the Establishment given into Parliament that the Establishment for General Officers, was £ 32,232 yearly, Three Fourths of which are spent Abroad, seldom or never more than Three out of the Twelve General Officers on the Staff attending,	24,174 11 0
Troops on this Establishment, Four Regiments of Horse, Eight of Dragoons, and Thirty of Foot; of which six Regiments of Foot are constantly Abroad, some Times more. The Pay to the Commissioned Officers	

Officers of all said Regiments (except the Six Abroad) amounts to on Computation £148,330 12s. 6d. yearly, one Fourth of which, at least, is spent Abroad,

37,082 13 0

The whole Pay of the Six Regiments of Foot spent Abroad, amounts to

47,121 10 0

The Establishment for Half Pay Officers, amounted to £ 45,012 10s. 1d.

15,004 3 4

For Officers Widows, £ 16,754 11s. 5d. yearly, one Third spent Abroad,

5,584 17 1

Sent to *England* one Year with another, to buy Recruit Horses for Twelve Regiments,

3,240

Spent in *England* for raising Recruits for the Foot Service,

3,000

Perquisites on Cloathing Forty-two Regiments at £ 250 each, yearly, comes to £ 10,500, Two Thirds of which spent Abroad,

7,000

Carried off yearly by Adventurers to *America*, who may be reckoned one Year with another 6000 in Number, and to carry off each one with another £ 10

60,000

Remitted yearly on Account of Insurance of Ships, Assurance from Fire, to religious Houses Abroad, for Coaches, Carriages, Toys, Cloaths, Furniture, Jewels, Haberdasheries, and many such like Things,

40,000

It

It is admitted on all Hands, that a very considerable Profit arises from the Freight and Tonnage of Shipping employed yearly in the whole Trade of *Ireland*, many compute between 6 and £ 800,000 yearly, and that not above one sixth Part thereof which belongs to the *Irish*, the rest to the *English* and *Scotch*; but to be greatly within Bounds, suppose we compute we pay for this Article only, 100,000

Total of all the above £. 1,208,982 14 6

ADDITIONAL ARTICLES.

The above Lists shew us clearly what immense Sums are drawn out of this Kingdom annually; but there are many other Articles to be taken into Consideration; whenever we come to make a Computation upon this Head, they will readily occur to every Gentleman, some of which we shall here mention: Indeed, though these Articles cannot be rated at any certain Sum, yet they may well be computed to encrease the annual Drain of Money out of the Kingdom, not less than 300,000*l.* many think they may be rated at 400,000*l.*

First, We are to observe that a great many Estates and Woods, have of late been sold in *Ireland*, and all the Purchase Money, at once carried to *England*; and, which is farther remarkable, some Estates have in the Compass of a few Years been sold again, and all the Purchase Money sent away a second Time.

Second,

Second, That great Sums of Money are Yearly sent Abroad to discharge old Debts, contracted by Persons now residing in *Ireland*.

Third, Though some of the aforesaid Persons may spend less Abroad than here rated, yet many of them spend much more than their Yearly Income ; which Debts must be paid in *England*, after they come to reside in *Ireland*.

Fourth, That several Estates of *Irish* Landlords who live Abroad, have of late been much raised, and large Fines taken and remitted to them ; and many more Estates will not fail to be raised to the Height, as the old Leases expire, and thereby increase their Yearly Draughts upon us.

Fifth, That several Persons who live Abroad, have large Mortgages on Estates in *Ireland* ; the Interest Money whereof is constantly returned to them in *England*.

Sixth, Many of our young Lords and Gentlemen, in a few Years after they come to Age, squander in other Countries, all the ready Money which had been saved for them by their Guardians in their Minorities.

Seventh, Great Numbers live Abroad, whose Names or Estates, for want of due Information, are here omitted.

Eighth, There is Yearly carried out of this Kingdom, about 175,000*l.* by the Colliers of *England* and *Scotland*, who take very little else but ready Money in Return for their Coals : But this Point will more properly come to be considered hereafter, upon the Article of Trade.

I shall now beg Leave to take Notice of the Method and Caution made use of, in forming, and drawing

drawing up the said List; and to observe, that the best Endeavours have not been wanting, to procure from Receivers, Agents, and others, an exact Information of the clear Yearly Income of the Estates of the Persons mentioned in the said List, and of the Sums of Money they may reasonably be supposed to spend Abroad, and that Care has been taken in the Computation, to be always under the real value, in order to make Allowances for Loss to Agents, Quit-rents and other Charges.

We are further to observe, that the Estates of many of the said Persons are much larger than here set down; but being subject to Jointures, Rent Charges and Debts, which are spent at Home; we have not therefore set forth the full Value of them, but so much only as is supposed to be spent Abroad.

Though some of our Gentlemen stay Abroad but a short Time, yet when we would compute how much Money is Yearly drawn out of the Kingdom, we are obliged to take Notice of all those Persons, who are at any one Time absent; for if some return again, others do not fail to go Abroad, and supply their Places.

If through Misinformation, the Yearly Income, or Remittances of some Persons, mentioned in the said List, should happen to be over-rated; that is amply made up by others, who will be found upon Enquiry, to be undercharged.

A General Abstract of the Quantity of Money
drawn out of the Kingdom.

	l. s. d.
By the Pensioners comprehended in the First Class,	73,375 0 0
By the other Persons of the First Class,	371,900 0 0
By those of the Second Class,	108,300 0 0
By those of the Third Class,	92,000 0 0
By those who have Employments or Offices in <i>Ireland</i> ,	72,200 0 0
By those whose Income is under £ 400 Yearly,	60,000 0 0
Travelling Expences Merchants and Traders,	15,000 0 0
Education of Youth, &c. and at Inns of Courts,	44,000 0 0
Law Suits, &c. and Attendance for Employments, &c.	30,000 0 0
By the Eight Articles relative to the Military,	142,207 14 6
By Adventurers to <i>America</i> ,	60,000 0 0
By Insurance of Ships, &c.	40,000 0 0
By Freight and Tonnage of Ships,	100,000 0 0
By the Additional Articles,	300,000 0 0
	<hr/>
	£. 1,508,982 14 6

Peers of *Ireland* who are Absentees, and have
no Estate in *Ireland*.

Earl of Desmond	E. E.	How
Waterford	E. E.	Chetwynd
Fitz-Williams	E. E.	Grimston
Athlone		Barrington
Tilney		Vane
Verney		Bateman
Panniure		Galway
Fife		Gage
Tyrconnell		Ligonier
Mexborough		Fortrose
Winterton		Lord Baltimore
Ld. Vis. Kilmurry		Sherard
Lumley		Maynard
Wenman		Hawley
Molyneaux		Tyrawley
Fairfax		Aylmer
Cullen		Fortescue
Tracy		Coleraine
Bulkeley		Oswell
Cholmondeley		Waltham
Down		Pigot
Lisburn		Bateman
Taaffe		Mulgrave

N. B. All Gentlemen's Estates are intended to be rated under the real Value, and only so much of them as may be supposed to be spent Abroad; and though the utmost Care and greatest Enquiry have been made use of to prevent Mistakes in Rating the Value of Estates and Employments, and making Computations, and finding out who are Absentees, yet no Doubt there must, from the Nature of a Work of this Kind, be many Errors and Mistakes, which as they are by no Means intentional, no one ought to be disengaged at them; and the Publisher, upon Information to the Printer, will be extremely willing to set them right.

O B S E R



OBSERVATIONS
ON THE
PRECEDENT LISTS;
AND, ON THE
Trade of IRELAND, &c.

THE late *Thomas Prior*, a Man of great Knowledge and Abilities, and one who spent a long Course of Years in promoting the Welfare and Happiness of his Country, and who for many Years was a most useful and active Member of the *Dublin Society*, and in that Capacity greatly contributed to the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Husbandry in this Kingdom; wrote a Treatise upon this Subject about Thirty Years ago, and gave us a List of the Absentees of that Time, by which it appears that

there then was Yearly drawn out of this Kingdom so large a Sum as upwards of 621,000*l.* by Absentees.

ABOUT that Time Men were so fully satisfied of the Mischiefs and Misfortunes attending so many Gentlemen living out of the Kingdom, and such an immense Sum being Yearly spent abroad, that the Legislature thought it highly necessary to remedy this great Evil in some Measure.

AND accordingly passed an Act of Parliament, in the Year 1715; whereby Persons who had any Salaries, Profits of Employments, Fees or Pensions in *Ireland*, should pay unto His Majesty Four Shillings out of every Twenty Shillings Yearly, which they were entitled unto, unless such Persons should reside within the Kingdom for Six Months in every Year, which Tax was to be deducted Yearly out of the Salaries, Employments and Fees, by the Persons who paid the same, and to be by them paid to the Vice Treasurers, to be accounted for to His Majesty, and their Deputies were to give in upon Oath an Account of the neat Profit of the Employments, on Pain of being incapacitated to execute such Deputation, and of forfeiting One Hundred Pounds. The Secretary of the Commissioners of the Revenue, the Agents of Regiments and Agents of Persons entitled to receive Salaries or Pensions, were on Pain of being disabled to hold their respective Offices, to deliver in upon Oath a List of the Officers of the Revenue, the Officers of Regiments above the Degree of a Field Officer, and of the Persons entitled to receive Salaries or Pensions, who shall be out of the Kingdom for Six Months.

THERE was a saving for the Lord Lieutenant, or other Governor of this Kingdom, and their Secre-

Secretaries, and such Persons who should be exempted by his Majesty's Sign Manual, and Officers of Regiments commanded abroad, Half-Pay Officers, Widows of Officers, and any Officer under the Degree of a Field Officer.

THIS Tax on such Absentees was continued by several Acts of Parliament, in subsequent Sessions, till the Year 1753; when it appearing that the King's Ministers prevailed on the Crown to exercise the dispensing Powers contained in the above Clause, and in the Case of Pensions frequently to grant such Addition to the Pension as might be sufficient to answer the Tax; for which see the List of Pensions.

MANY worthy Gentlemen for those Reasons, and finding very little Benefit accrued to the Public from the Tax by the above Means, I may truly say, of evading the Act of Parliament and the Intention of the Legislature, consented to the letting the Tax drop, not from any Disapprobation of the Tax, but they saw clearly that as it was then modelled, and applied, it would answer no publick Benefit.

By the above you see how sensible the Legislature and People were of this great Evil, let us now take a View what our Ancestors thought of it, and the Provisions they made in this Case.

SIR John Davis, Attorney General in *Ireland*, to King James the First, in his Historical Relations has observed that the Absence of the great Lords (who having great Estates in *Ireland*, yet kept their continual Residence in *England*) was the principal Cause of the slow Progress made in the Reduction of *Ireland*, and of the frequent Rebellions of the *Irish*, who were thereby encouraged to make Encroachments

croachments upon the *English*, and disposses them of their Lands, and that the Kings of *England* were thereby put to the Necessity of sending Armies over from Time to Time to reduce and re-conquer several Provinces thereof.

FOR which Reason an Ordnance has been made in *England*, the 3d of *Richard* the Second, against such as were absent from their Lands in *Ireland*, which gave two third Parts of the Profits thereof unto the King, until they returned or placed a sufficient Number of Men to defend the same; which Ordinance was put in Execution for many Years after, as appears by sundry Seizures made thereupon, in the Time of *Richard* the 2d, and *Henry* the 4th, 5th, and 6th, whereof there remain Records in the Remembrancer's Office here. Among the rest the Duke of *Norfolk* was impleaded on this Ordinance, for two Parts of the Profits of his Lands in the County of *Wexford*, in the Time of *Henry* the 6th, and afterwards, on the same Reason of State, all the Lands of the House of *Norfolk*, of the Earl of *Sbresbury*, Lord *Berkely*, and others, (who having Lands in *Ireland*, yet resided continually in *England*) were entirely resumed and vested in the Crown by the Act of Absentees, made the 28th of *Henry* the 8th.

NOT only two thirds of the Profits of the Lands of Absentees were forfeited by Law, but if any in Office went out of the Kingdom, his Office became void immediately, and therefore in the 25th of *Henry* the 6th, an Act passed in *Ireland*; that whereas it was in Doubt, if any Persons in Office, did pass by Sea from one Port of *Ireland* to another, whether their Offices were void, as if they had passed into *England*, or into other Lands out of *Ireland*, it was thereby

thereby declared, that any Officer may pass into Ships, or Boats, from any Part of *Ireland* to another, without forfeiting his Office ; and by another *Act* made in the same Year, entitled, an *Act* concerning *Absentees* ; it was ordained, that if any of the King's Subjects, or Officers, be absent out of the Land of *Ireland*, by the Commandment of the King, or the Governor, or Council, that their Lands, Rents, or Offices, by their said Absence, shall not be seized, nor taken into the King's Hands, and their Offices shall not be void.

THESE *Acts* do necessarily imply and presuppose that there were then *Acts* in Force, (which though now not mentioned in our *Statute-Books*, yet possibly may be found in some of our Offices, of Record) whereby the Offices, and two third Parts of the Profits of the Lands of *Absentees*, were forfeited to the King ; and the *Statute of Absentees*, of the 28th of *Henry the 8th*, expressly takes Notice, that two Parts in three of the Yearly Profits of the Lands of absent Persons, did by reason of their Absence belong to the King, by Virtue of the *Statutes* in that Case provided.

An ACT passed the 10th Char. I. Ch. 21.

RECITING, That the King and his Progenitors out of their princely Wisdom, had thought proper to confer upon several able worthy, and well-deserving Persons, inhabiting or dwelling in *England* and elsewhere out of the Kingdom of *Ireland*, Titles of Honor, whereby they do enjoy Place and Precedency according to their Titles respectively, so that it cannot be denied, but that in a just way of RETRIBUTION, they ought to contribute

bute to all publick Charges and Payments, taxed by Parliament in that Kingdom, from whence the Titles of their Honors are derived, and whereunto others of their Rank there resident are liable.

It is Enacted, That all and every Person or Persons, now being and which shall hereafter be an Earl, Viscount, or Baron of that Kingdom, and have Place and Voice in the Parliament of that Realm, tho' Resident or Dwelling in *England* or elsewhere, shall be liable to all publick Payments and Charges which shall be Taxed or Assessed in this or in any other Parliament, and shall from Time to Time contribute thereunto, and pay their Rateable Parts thereof in such Manner and Form as others of their Ranks are liable unto, or shall pay.

And by another ACT of the 36th of Hen. VI. Cha. I.

RECITING, That divers Persons advanced to Benefices within *Ireland*, do absent them out of the said Land in other Lands, whereby the Issues and Profits of their said Benefices are Yearly taken forth of the said Land of *Ireland*, to the great Impoverishment and Weakening of the same, diminishing of God's Service, and withdrawing of Hospitality.

It is Enacted, That all Manner of Benefices within the said Land, of whatsoever Condition that they be, shall keep Residence continually in their proper Persons in the said Land, within Twelve Months after this Parliament finished, and otherwise the Issues and Profits of the said Benefices (Divine Service and Ordinary Charges kept) shall be divided, the half to the Commodity and Profit of their Benefices, and Churches, the other half

to

to be expended in the King's Wars in Defence of the poor Land of *Ireland*, and any Grants of Absency made by the King to them or any of them, or to be made and granted in Time coming to the contrary thereof, to be void and of no Force in Law, unless that it be by Authority of Parliament.

THESE were some of the legal Provisions which our Ancestors made to prevent our Gentlemen of Estates and Employments, and also our Clergy from living abroad, and we do not find they were ever repealed; happy had it been for the Kingdom, if they had been duly executed.

MONEY being the Measure of all Commerce, a certain Quantity thereof is necessary for carrying on the Trade of each Country, in Proportion to the Business thereof; it is generally estimated that the Current Species of *England* is about Fourteen Million *Sterling*, and that so much is necessary for its Foreign and Domestick Trade, in which it is much assisted by many Millions more in Bank Notes, Bank and South-Sea Stock and other Publick Securities, which being easily transferred from One to another, have in Effect the Use and Convenience of Money.

It is reasonable to suppose, that the Quantity of Species requisite to carry on the Trade of *Ireland* with Ease and Advantage, cannot be less than £1,200,000, if we consider that the Yearly Value of our Exports is at a Medium for 7 Years, ending the 25th of *March*, 1766 *, £2,426,423 19s. 4d. and of our Imports £1,936,587 8s. 4d. That the publick Revenue and Charge of the Establishment

* There has not been any great Variation in these Articles, this four Years past.

are each upwards of £900,000, *per Annum*, and that our Rents and Domestick Commerce, amount Yearly to the Value of several Millions, all which Articles must be paid in ready Money, especially in *Ulster* and *Connaught*, and therefore can hardly be supposed to require less than £1,200,000, for the convenient Management thereof.

Of late Years we have most sensibly felt a Scarcity of Money, and never more than this Summer *, when Exchange rose up to 10 *per Cent.* and Merchants could not get their Bills at any Rate Discounted. Money which could some few Years ago be had at 4 *per Cent.* cannot now at less than 6, and Gentlemen of Estates and undeniably Land Security, cannot without the greatest Difficulty raise Money, the Bankers finding so great a Call; and it is so much their Convenience to employ most of their Cash in the Discounting Trade, which they call very emphatically a living Credit, as the Money lent that way comes back again in so short a Time.

THIS Want of Money in the Kingdom throws a Damp upon all Business. Manufacturers cannot be set to work, Materials purchased, or Credit subsist; and People who are willing to support themselves by their Industry, are left to struggle with Poverty for want of Employment, and many Estates are left unimproved.

* This was in Summer 1767, Exchange indeed has been ever since much lower; but still Gentlemen of Estates labour under great Difficulties in raising of Money upon Landed Security, insomuch that they begin to think of Relaxing some of the Popery Laws with respect to allowing Papists to take Real or Landed Securities under certain Restrictions to induce them to bring Money into the Kingdom.

We are not now at a Loss to point out the principal Source of all our Misfortunes, and the chief Cause of all this Distress ; it appears plainly from the List of Absentees, and the Estimate of the Quantity of Species they may be reasonably supposed to draw yearly out of the Kingdom, that no other Country labors under so wasteful a Drain of its Treasures, as *Ireland* does at present by an Annual Remittance of above a MILLION to our Gentlemen Abroad, without the least Consideration or Value returned for the same : This is so great a Burthen upon us, that I believe there is not in History, an Instance of any one Country paying so large a yearly Tribute to another.

COUNTRIES that abound in Mines of Gold and Silver, are enabled by the Bounty of Nature, to bear an Exportation of their Bullion ; but others, which want this natural Produce, and have no other way of getting or keeping Money, but by having the Ballance of Trade in their Favour, suffer extremely, whenever they want Coin sufficient for circulating their Business.

IT is believed by many, who understand our Money Affairs, that there is less Species now in the Kingdom, than was at any one Time since the Revolution ; if so, 'tis impossible to subsist much longer under such a Drain ; for if the Quantity of Money exported vastly over-ballances any Income or Gain we have by Trade (as plainly appears by examining the List, the Ballance of our Trade herein set forth, and a constant Course of Exchange against us) it evidently follows, that all our remaining Species, will, in a little Time, be carry'd off ; the Consequence whereof will be, that we shall be utterly disabled from carrying on

our Foreign and Domestick Commerce, paying Rents, or discharging the publick Establishment.

'Tis true, this Evil is of such a Nature, as in a little Time, it must cure itself; for if the Demands of our Absentees greatly exceed all our Gain by Trade, and amount to as much Yearly, as the whole current Coin of the Kingdom; there will be soon nothing left for them to draw away, and they must be forced to return to their native Country, which must necessarily be the Case, unless, (which can't reasonably be supposed) they shall think it a less Grievance to starve abroad.

When Things come to this Extremity, great must be the Calamity of all, even of those who are innocent, and have not had the least Share in bringing this Evil upon us; so then no Rents can be paid in Money, but all in Kind; no Sort of Trade can be carried on, but by bartering one Commodity for another: The Price of Lands must universally fall, the Army must be broke, or live on free Quarters, and the Establishment, and all Professions must sink for want of Money to support them.

We shall be then reduced to the Condition of some of our Plantations, out of which, for the same Cause, all Money is carried off as fast as it enters, and nothing left current but Paper.

If our Gentlemen abroad, were the only Sufferers by their Conduct, we should have no Reason to complain; but it happens in this Case, that tho' they bring this Evil upon us, they will be the last that will feel the Effects of it; but, at length, must share the same Fate with ourselves.

'Tis melancholy to observe that now we are labouring under great Disadvantages in Trade, and

and struggling with Penury and Want, the Humour of living, and spending abroad still increases among our Men of Distinction and Station, and has even infected our Ladies, who may be sooner found out at *London, Paris, Rome* or any foreign Place of Expence, than at Home.

If those Gentlemen, who now draw out of the Kingdom yearly near a Million and an half, could be prevailed upon to spend the same at Home, the Advantages and good Effects thereof, would be soon visible in the Improvement of Lands and Houses; in the Encrease of People, Arts, and Manufactures, in a great Produce in the Excise and Customs, and in a better Support of the Government: Whereas, now by the Means of our Nobility, and Gentry deserting their own Country, and spending all abroad, our People are left without Employment, and are forced to shift to foreign Countries, even to *America*, to get a Livelihood.

'Tis too much in Reason for these Gentlemen to expect that we shall patiently bear with the Loss of our Trade, Loss of our Money, and additional Taxes, for no other Reason but to gratify the Vanity of those, who have thus wantonly abandoned their Country, and riot abroad in its Ruin: There is no way left to save us, but by obliging them to live at Home or making them pay for living abroad.

PERHAPS some may imagine, that our Absentees, have great Encouragement to go, and spend their Fortunes abroad, that they are received with open Arms, and preferred to Places of Profit, Honour, and Power; but alas! if we examine the List, we shall find, that there are but very few therein mentioned, born and bred in

in *Ireland*, who have got Pensions or any Civil or Military Employment by living abroad, so little are they regarded in those Countries where they spend all their Fortunes : The Case indeed is otherwise with the *North-Britons*, who lose nothing by going into other Countries, whatever they gain there ; 'tis true there are some Lords in the said List, who have Employments abroad ; but these honourable Persons (a very few excepted) were neither bred, nor born in *Ireland*, and owe their Preferments to their Interests and Alliances abroad ; and not any Estates they happen to have in *Ireland*.

Nor can we think it strange, that our Absentees are thus served ; for how can Persons, who can get no Employment in their own Country by Virtue of the Interest they have there, expect to be preferred in another, where they have no Interest at all.

We may be soon cured of any vain Expectations of Promotion abroad, if we consider that our Countrymen are so far from being careis'd, that they are generally slighted in other Countries : It must be own'd, that the Poverty of some of our Natives, and the Extravagance of many of our Men of Fortune have brought us into Discredit and Contempt ; so that of all Nations we have the Misfortune to be the least regarded by those, who get most by us : And yet such is our Folly, that many of our People, choose to spend their Estates in a mean obscure Way abroad, under the Contempt and Hatred of all about them, rather than live at home in Plenty, Honour, and Esteem.

I wish we could say, that these Gentlemen, by living abroad, had any way contributed to the

the Interest of *Ireland*, but I am afraid, they have no merit of this Kind to plead, for except a very few Persons, who upon all Occasions have been willing, industrious, and able to serve us, (and which we shall ever with the greatest Gratitude acknowledge) we know of few Absentees, who upon Emergency wherein the Interest of *Ireland* was concerned, have had Spirit or Disposition, Interest or Weight, or even a sufficient Knowledge of the Affairs of their own Country to do it Service; they are either Strangers to the Circumstances and Interests of *Ireland*, or have no Power or Qualifications to be of use to it.

If we enquire into the Motives of this Conduct of our Gentlemen, so injurious to their own, and their Country's Interest; we shall find, that a luxurious Manner of Living, an Affectation of imitating the Nobility and Gentry of other Countries in their Expences, together with the Largeness of their Fortunes, are the principal Motives of their spending all their Estates abroad; which they seldom fail to incur with great Debts, and frequently sell, either to gratify their present Vanity, or pay for past Follies.

'Tis a melancholy Observation, and fit to be remembered, that almost all the Estates, which of late Years, have been sold in *Ireland*, have belonged to such of our Gentlemen, as brought themselves under a Necessity of selling to discharge Debts contracted abroad; we can justly date the Ruin of several great Families from the fatal Period of their going to live abroad; and we may now, prophetically, pronounce the like Fate of several others, who have of late, or shall hereafter follow the same Course of living, that their

their Lands shall pass away to Strangers, and their Names be no more heard of.

THE Extinction of such Families, may probably be no hurt to the Publick, but then the Value of their Estates spent abroad, is certainly lost to the Kingdom ; an *English Prodigal* injures none but his own Family, since whatever he squanders, goes into the Pockets of others, of the same Country ; but any *Irish Spendthrift*, who commonly makes *London* or *Paris* the Scene of his Extravagance, not only deprives his Family, but his Country also, of the full Value of all he consumes.

IT has been observed (as another ill Effect of living abroad) concerning such of our Gentlemen of Fortune, as happened to marry there ; that they and their Posterity are for the most Part lost to this Kingdom ; 'tis shocking to an *English Lady*, to think of living in such a poor, despis'd Place as *Ireland* is, and if she has not made it an Article of Marriage, as it often is the Case, she seldom fails, some other way to prevail on an easy Husband to forsake his Country, and takes care to breed up her Children in the same Aversion ; and from that Time forward, we hear no more of them, but by their constant drawing all their Rents from hence, and racking their poor Tenants : Such Deserters prove the worst Enemies to *Ireland*, by laying it under a continual yearly Pillage to their Vanity and Luxury, without contributing the least Farthing, towards the Support of the Government.

AND here I cannot but take Notice of the Conduct of some of our Gentlemen, in sending their Children to other Countries for Education ; 'tis certain, if they were better appriz'd of the Manner

ner of Living, and Studying, and Performances required of them abroad, they would believe it much better to educate them in our Colleges at Home, where the Course and Method of studying are excelled by none Abroad, and where the Rules require a greater Strictness and Attendance to Duties, more reading and studying, and where there are to be found generally better Scholars, in Proportion to their Numbers, and less Corruption; this Humour proceeding from a want of Judgment and Observation, is often attended with this Consequence, that the young Gentlemen educated Abroad, either take a liking to other Countries, and so are for ever lost to their own, if their Fortune will enable them to live there; or if they return Home, perhaps bring nothing with them, but the Follies and Luxuries of our Neighbours, by which we suffer too much already.

If some think it a Hardship, that most of our Employments, are given to other People; we all have just Reasons to complain, that those Employments are served by Deputies, and of Consequence not only the greatest Part of the Profits thereof carried out of the Kingdom, and spent Abroad; but they are ill served and attended. 'Tis our Misfortune that too many of the *English*, who obtain Places in this Country seldom favour us with their Company in the Enjoyment of them. 'Tis true, we have one Visit from them when they come over to qualify themselves here, and take Possession of their Preferments, tho' some of them will not even be at so much Trouble, but obtain Acts of Parliament in *England* to dispense with their Qualifications, in *Ireland*; and after this Beginning, we see no more of them but their Names in our publick Establishments.

BUT as to those who get Preferment here, and live and settle with us, we have no Cause to repine; they become one with us, heartily espouse the Interest of the Country, and are in all Respects an Advantage to it; we can't but remember, that a great many considerable Families now in the Kingdom, are the Descendants of such, who came hither for Preferment.

IT is a melancholy Thing to view the above List of Absentee Pensioners, when upwards of £73,375 of the £96,667 in the whole granted for Civil, Military and *French* Pensions is yearly spent abroad, we are always increasing our Pension List. It is now more than double a great deal what it was when Mr. *Prior* wrote, and every Change of Ministry in a neighbouring Kingdom generally increases it considerably. Taxes spent at Home do not impoverish us, though private Persons may suffer in the Payment of them; but whatever is spent Abroad, is a general Loss to the Kingdom.

£96,667 the Sum our Pension List amounts to, would pay an Interest, at the Rate of *4 per Cent*, for upwards of £2,391,000, so that it may well be said, we have got into a Debt equal to that Sum unknown to ourselves, and pay Interest annually for it, besides our other National Debt.

ANOTHER Thing that makes the Pensions sit heavy on every Body's Mind is, one is greatly at a Loss to find out the Merit of most of them; indeed there are some that no one ever found Fault with, others that do great Honour to the List, whose Name and Actions the People of *Ireland* most gratefully remember, such as the several Branches of the Royal Family, Sir *Edward Hawke*, and Prince *Ferdinand of Brunswick*.

NOR can we altogether excuse the Military Officers from contributing to the Impoverishment of this Country ; of the many General Officers on our Establishment, very few of them are, at any Time, to be found here, tho' they are, perhaps, the only Generals in *Europe*, in full Pay in Time of Peace ; and, if at any Time, any of them are ordered to review our Forces, which is the only Part of Duty required of them, they expect to be allowed for that Service in *Ireland*, which does not last above six Weeks or two Months, 300*l.* or 500*l.* over and above their Pay, as General, which is as much as any Lieutenant General, in the Foreign Service is allowed a Year ; and this too, tho' they happen to come over at the same Time to take Possession of a good Government ; many of our Colonels and Field Officers, by the same Example, live for the most Part Abroad, to the disabling the poor People of this Kingdom, from paying that very Establishment, by which they are maintained.

THERE was no Part of his Majesty's Dominions more clearly bore the Expences and Burthens of the last Wars than the People of *Ireland* ; and the Parliament of that Kingdom, with a becoming Zeal and Spirit, granted all that was asked of them, and run themselves in Debt for that Purpose, and that too, tho' two Parts in three of that Expence was laid out Abroad, and our Kingdom left, in a great Measure, naked of Troops. Hardly 5000 Men, at a Time when we were in the greatest Danger of wanting them and our Militia was quite useless for want of effectual Laws for raising and disciplining of them, *viz.* Sir *Edward Hawke's* Victory at Sea, and that great Admiral's delivering this Kingdom from the Miseries and Ravages of a *French* Invasion.

vation. But this Spirit and Zeal of the People of *Ireland* should meet with a suitable Return and Relaxation of Taxes and Expences, in Time of Peace in the Military Department; and yet, instead of that, we find the Charges of the Military Establishment since the last War, within a very few Thousand Pounds, equal to what it was during the War, when the whole Military Establishment and Expences were very near 600,000*l.* annually, at a Medium. But this appears clearly to be owing, in a great Measure, to the Troops we have now here in Time of Peace, being, in Effect, an Army of Officers, there being but 28 Men in a Company, and 19 Men in a Troop *, so that the Annual Pay of the Officers of the Army here is very near half the Expence of the whole Army, about

* In *England* there is 47 Men in a Company and 31 in a Troop of the Marching Regiments, which is about two fifths more private Men than we have; so that we might have an Army of near 17000 Men instead of 12000, with only the additional Pay of the Difference of so many private Men, which would not amount to a very large Sum, as you would have the same Number of Officers, which are the great Expence of an Army.

I am sure if the Horse, Foot, and Dragoons, on the *Irish* Establishment, were put on the same Footing with respect to the Number of private Men that it is in *England*, an Army of 15000 effective Men might be kept here at a less Expence than our present nominal Army of 12000 Men; I say nominal Army, for, it is certain we have very seldom above 5000 or 6000 effective Men in the Kingdom, which makes the Country look very thin of Troops.

What a Difference is there between our present Peace Establishment for 12000 Men, *viz.* 4 Regiments of Horse, 8 of Dragoons, and 30 of Foot, and King *William's*, of 2 Regiments of Horse, consisting of 261 Men each, 3 of Dragoons, of 362 each, and 20 of Foot, of 488 Men each. The *Irish* Military Establishment is in Effect no more than a Nursery for an Army, and a very expensive one; but, if it was managed with Oeconomy and made more useful, it would be better relished.

l. 170,610

170,610*l.* 175. 6*d.* of the 348,264*l.* 15*s.* the whole Pay of the Army, and this Article greatly swells our Absentee List. By all this it is manifest, that what *Ireland* pays in Time of Peace on this Head, is to be considered as a great additional Expence, and a considerable Assistance and Strength to the *British Empire*.

WE are apt to complain of the Hardships laid upon us by *England* in respect to our Trade, and when we are pinched, and in Distress, charge our Misfortunes to the Account of our People; but if we truly examine all Circumstances, we shall find, that to ourselves we owe most of the Misfortunes, and Inconveniencies we labour under; we owe them to our immoderate Consumption of Foreign Commodities at Home, and extravagant spending Abroad.

It is not to be wondered at, that we should grow poorer every Day under such an unprofitable Drain of Money, which all the Labour of the People and Produce of the Country, with every Acquisition they can make, are not able to supply. This is an Evil long complained of, and in our Days is encreased to that Degree, that we shall soon be utterly exhausted, unless some effectual Stop be put thereto; and as it arises principally from ourselves, it is much in our Power to redress it.

I SHALL now proceed to consider the Trade of *Ireland*, in order to examine whether the Ballance arising from thence will enable us to answer these great and constant Draughts upon us from Abroad, and also to give such a just Representation of our Commercial Affairs, as that Gentlemen, by being better apprised of the true State of their Country, may be thereby qualified to think on proper Methods and Schemes for improving the same; for surely

surely nothing will so effectually enable Men to take right Measures for the Good of their Country, as to be rightly informed concerning the Trade and true Interest thereof.

It appears clearly from the Tables of Imports and Exports hereto annexed *, which have been carefully taken from the *Custom-House* Books, and the Computation made relative to the Ballance of Trade in our Favour, that whatsoever Gain we have that Way falls considerably short of what is sufficient to answer the Demands of our Gentlemen Abroad.

I SHALL consider our Trade under the following Heads :

1st. I SHALL examine what *Ireland* gains or loses, both in respect of its general Trade with all the World, and of its particular Trade, with the several Countries it has Dealings with.

2dly, I SHALL particularly take Notice of the Countries we trade with to most Advantage, or Disadvantage.

3dly, I SHALL offer some Hints for the better Improvement and Regulation of our Trade.

As to the first Head, we are to observe, that in order to form a right Judgment of the Trade of any Country, and whether it gains or loses in its Commerce with any particular Nation, or its Traffick with all Countries, 'tis absolutely necessary to be well informed how much Money that

* These Tables were annexed to the former Editions of this Treatise, but are now omitted, as they were very long, and greatly encreased the Price of it, and may be more fully seen in the Returns made to Parliament every Session, from the *Examinateur's-Office* in the *Custom House*, and likewise from Tables constantly kept by the *Dublin Society* in their Museum, and which may be seen at any Time.

Country

Country pays for its Imports, and receives for its Exports; for the Difference of both in Value, is the true Measure of Loss and Gain; if the Exports sell for more than is laid out in purchasing the Imports, or if the Imports cost more than the Exports amount to, the Difference will be returned in Specie, and is called the Ballance.

Two' it must be confessed to be very difficult to come to an exact Knowledge of the true Value of all Goods Imported and Exported, in a Country that has an extensive Trade, and has loaded its Imports with high Duties; yet, I hope, we shall be thought to come very near the Truth, by the Means of those Enquiries and Calculations we have made, and especially by the Help of those Abstracts which have been laid from Time to Time before the House of Commons by the Officers of the *Custom-House*, who make up Yearly Accounts of the Quantity and Value of all Commodities imported and exported: And having made several Estimates and Observations from the said Abstracts, I shall here present them to the Reader in one View for his better Information, judging them the best Foundation we can go upon for forming a just Estimate of our Trade, compared with other Nations; and the only Way to clear up the Mistakes and wrong Notions, which several entertain concerning our Trade with particular Countries, and as there are several Articles, not taken Notice of by the Officers of the *Custom-House*, which ought to be taken into Consideration which we are drawing up the Ballance of our respective Trades, I shall endeavour to supply them.

THUS far we are instructed by the *Custom-House* Books, concerning the Quantity and Value of our Commodities imported and exported, and their

their respective Ballances depending thereon, and find that the Ballance in our Favour of all our Trade in general, taken at a Medium yearly, for the last seven Years ending the 25th of *March*, 1766 *, amounts to 489,836*l.* 10*s.* 11*d.*

It is proper to take Notice of the Manner of Valuation practised by the proper Officers, who (as I am well informed, value all our Exports at a Medium of the Price current in our Markets at Home; and all the Imports at the mean Rate we are supposed to pay for them to other Countries; and to do Justice to the Care and Skill of the Officers, we must observe, they are, for the most Part, pretty exact, and right in their Valuations, having made it their Busines to be well informed by Merchants, and other Dealers, of the current Rates of Commodities both at Home and Abroad.

It must be owned, that this Manner of Valuation will not give us the true Ballances of our Trade with other Countries; for though in respect to the Imports, no Alteration is to be made in the Value of them, or the Supposition that we rate them no higher than the prime Cost we pay for them to other Countries, yet we must add to the Value of our Exports, whatever we sell them for Abroad, more than they are rated for at Home; this additional Value arises from the Duty and Charges of Exportation, the Freight, Expence and Profit of Merchants, which in long Voyages are very considerable, and enhance the Price of Commodities to

Upon looking into the Entries of Imports and Exports for the four last Years, since the above Tables were calculated, the Imports have considerably encreased, particularly in the Articles of Wine, Spirits and Teas; I wish I could say as much for our Exports, but I fear in many Instances they have lessened. the

An Account of the Value of the Exports and Imports of *Ireland* for seven Years, ending the 25th of *March*, 1766.

What the Exports exceed the Imports to all Countries during that Time, or the Balance of Trade in favour of *Ireland*.

Year ending 25th of March.	EXPORTS.			IMPORTS.					
	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
1760	2139388	1	0	1647592	1	3	491795	19	9
1761	2244951	17	10	1527903	2	2	717048	15	8
1762	2438926	2	0	1914798	6	11	524127	15	1
1763	2279926	4	5	1818433	6	4	461492	18	1
1764	2595229	5	4	2216274	7	10	378954	17	6
1765	2492064	18	1	2139810	7	1	352254	11	0
1766	2794481	6	9	2291300	7	2	503180	19	7
Totals.	16984967	15	5	13556111	18	9	3428855	16	8

At a Medium for above

<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
2426423	19	4	1936587	8	4	489836	10	11

N. B. It appears that the supposed Balance in favour of *Ireland* is Importation and running of Brandies, Rum, Tobacco, Teas, and other articles mentioned in the Custom-house Books; but even admitting the Balance in favour of the Absentees, the Balance is against *Ireland* upwards of 1,000,000 £. The Exchange between *England* and *Ireland* is constantly against *Ireland*.

ports Im- Coun- e Ba- made in eland.

An Account of the Value of the Exports and Imports from Great-Britain to Ireland for seven Years, that ending the 25th of March, 1766.

What the Exports exceed the Imports to Great-Britain during that Time, or the Balance of Trade in favour of Ireland.

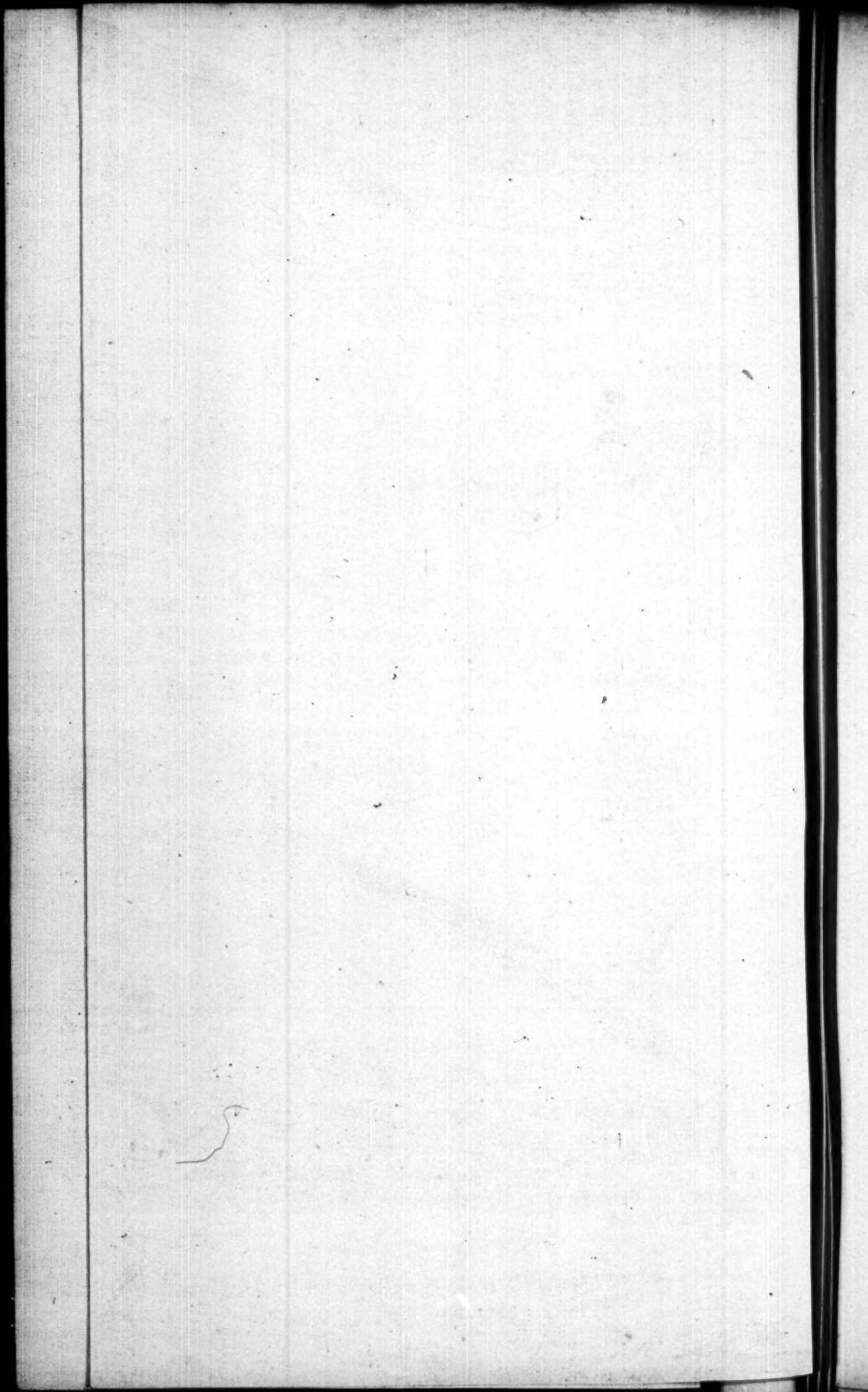
EXPORTS. IMPORTS.

s.	d.	l.	s.	d.	l.	s.	d.	l.	s.	d.
9	9	1450757	8	6	1094752	12	11	356004	15	7
5	8	1494499	8	2	1096989	9	2	397509	19	0
5	1	1649295	4	5	1338325	8	9	310969	15	8
8	1	1562400	9	11	1284891	2	8	277509	7	3
7	6	1682196	2	3	1567683	1	1	114513	1	2
11	0	1693197	5	6	1439969	4	8	253228	0	10
9	7	2883108	3	9	1602413	5	7	480694	18	2
16	8	11615454	2	6	9425024	4	10	2190429	17	8

above Seven Years.

s.	d.	l.	s.	d.	l.	s.	d.	l.	s.	d.
10	11	1659350	11	9	1346432	0	8	312918	11	1

Ireland is greatly lessened, if not overbalanced, by the clandestine as, and other Goods, and taking in some other Articles not the Balance, if you take into Consideration the great Drain by 1,000,000l. And to evince this Truth beyond all Contradiction, against Ireland, and sometimes it is highly so.



the Gain of the Nation, in whose Ships, and on whose Account these Goods are exported *.

To adjust these Articles, that are either to be added, or subtracted from the respective Ballances as they are settled by our *Custom-House* Officers, is very difficult, and requires the Knowledge of many Particulars, not easy to come at.

INDEED the Proportion of the Commodities exported or imported, on the Account of our Merchants, is not easy to ascertain; but upon the best Enquiry I have been able to make, and I have been assisted by several Merchants of great Skill and Knowledge, I judge that at a Medium the sixth Part of the Value of our whole Exports and Imports, may be the Proportion that our Merchants export and import in their own Shipping, on their own Accounts; upon this Supposition, the Ballance of this Part of our Trade is greatly against us, only one sixth by the Merchants and Traders of this Country, and the other five chiefly those of *Great-Britain*; this shews us what a small Share we ourselves have in Comparison of other Countries, in the Shipping employed in the Exportation and Importation of our Commodities.

THIS is not the only Branch of our Trade not taken Notice of, by the Returns in our *Custom-House* Books, that is greatly against us; there is another, which upon Examination I am afraid will reduce great Part of the above supposed Ballance in our Favour, if not the whole; I mean the great Quantity of Goods which are Yearly run into the

* It is imagined the Exports are greatly over-rated, for as in most Articles no Duty is paid on Exportation, Merchants enter at Pleasure, and to gain a Credit, Sometimes a great Deal more than they really send Abroad, and particularly in the Article of Linens.

Kingdom, without any Entry in the *Custom-House* Books, or Duty paid for the same, for which we pay Value Abroad.

'Tis impossible to ascertain the Value of this clandestine Importation ; but the fair Trader complains of the great Quantities of all Sorts of *East-India* * Commodities, Silks, Tobacco, Wine, Spirits, &c. imported by Stealth ; which no Trusts, Oaths, Penalties, or number of Officers are sufficient Checks to prevent ; if it is difficult to prevent this Sort of Traffick in *Dublin*, what Quantities must we suppose to be privately imported into the other Parts of the Kingdom, in a Compass of near 800 Miles in Circuit, abounding in Harbours and Creeks, where neither the Number or Care of Officers can be sufficient, to prevent these clandestine Conveyances ? And tho' such sort of People

* Teas are not run so much now as formerly, owing to the taking off the high Duties of 1s. 5d $\frac{1}{2}$. a Pound on the Black Bohea Teas, and 1s. 2d $\frac{1}{2}$. on the Greens, the Last Session of Parliament, so that now there remains but a light Duty of 4d. on the Boheas and 6d. on the Greens, and tho' one would think the Revenue would be considerably lessened, yet am informed it is rather raised by the Quantities of Teas entered, and the small Duties being regularly paid

I am sure the like Benefit would arise, if the high Duties on several other Articles were reduced, viz. In Spirits, Tobacco, &c for where-ever the Duties are considerably higher than the Intrinsic Value of the Commodity, it is a strong Temptation to run, and People will Hazard the running, where the Duty is low and the Loss great, by the Forfeiture of the Goods : Indeed the Duty would have risen very considerably, if it was taken off only the Bohea Teas, which are most exposed to running, for the Greens are too delicate, and great Risk is run of damaging and spoiling them by running, and it will be found upon a proper Enquiry, that the great Benefit of this Law, arises from the preventing the Running of the Bohea Teas, but the chief Motive for it was to compliment the East India Company,

People are, by a late Act of Parliament, deprived of the Use of the *Isle-of-Man* for carrying on this Traffick, yet how easy is it to shift the Scene of this pernicious Dealing, when the Profit shall countervail all Hazards, as it always does where the Duties are high ? But whatever is the Yearly Ballance on our side by Trade, yet all this falls very much short of answering that immoderate and unprofitable Drain of Money, we labor under, to support our Gentry Abroad ; whatever Gain we make in any Part of the World, is immediately carry'd off by this Flux, which has already consumed the greatest part of our Capital Stock, as appears by that universal Face of Poverty amongst the lower People that is spread over the Nation.

I SHALL close this Head, with an Observation which may pass for a Political Axiom, that one of the greatest Evils which can beset any Country, is to have the Gentlemen of Estate and Employment desert it, and spend the Profit thereof Abroad.

UNDER the Second Head, I shall take Notice of the Countries we trade with, to most Advantage or Disadvantage.

BEFORE I enter upon this Head, I must beg Leave to mention the Reasons that induced me to give the Publick the two Tables * of the Abstracts, of Part of the Exports and Imports for the Years, ending the 25th of *March*, 1764, and 1765, as returned to Parliament the last Session, from the Examinators Office of the *Custom-House*, tho' I cannot help saying they would be much more useful if the Returns gave us the Value of

* See a former Note.

the Totals of each Commodity exported and imported: by these Tables you will see at one View, not only the particular Countries we trade with, but each particular Commodity we export to them, and import from them; what Branches of Trade are beneficial, and what prejudicial to us, and the Countries we deal with for each; what Countries take from us our Commodities and Manufactures in greatest Abundance, and highest worked up and manufactured; whether we may not upon such a View of so many of our Commodities and Manufactures, some exported quite raw, totally unmanufactured, and very many not half manufactured, to the great Benefit of the Countries we export them to, and our great Loss and Dishonour; whether, I say, we may not thereby stir up some Spirit and Industry amongst our Merchants and Manufacturers, when the Benefit and Profit must be apparently so great: By these Tables it appears, many of our Exports may be encreased to our great Benefit, and many of our Imports entirely prevented, at least much lessened and diminished; but above all, the People of *Great-Britain* will see how many great and valuable Articles in Trade, Merchandise, and Manufactures we send them, that they work up and manufacture to the highest Perfection, and obtain great Gain thereby, and send them Abroad so manufactured, and even some of them back again to ourselves; and we see thereby many more Articles that we take from them, not only of their own Produce and Manufactures, but that they obtain by their Trade and Commerce with other Countries, and by which they have great Emoluments and Benefit; by all these Articles, and the

the constant Drain of our Absentees, I am very sure *Great-Britain* gains by *Ireland* above Two Million and a half Yearly*.

I WOULD not by any Means be understood to repine at, or envy the People of *Britain*, the great Benefit that accrues to them by *Ireland*, or be the Means of stirring up any Jealousy in the People of *Ireland*; there is no Man on Earth has a greater Respect and Regard for the present Royal Family than I have, under whom alone, I am certain this Country as well as *Great-Britain* can only be happy and free, nor has a higher Sense of the Benefits *Ireland* has formerly received, and now enjoys by the Protection of *England*, a Protection and Support, which has in Times past cost her a great deal of Blood and Treasure.

BUT I should hope from these Considerations, the Legislature and People of *Great-Britain* would think we deserve the Favour of having our Trade in some Measure enlarged, and the Indulgence of permitting us a free Exportation of some of our coarse and low priced Woollen Goods, and the more so as they have been in a great Measure beat out of that Trade by other Countries; which I am sure if they would coolly and dispassionately consider, must in the End turn out instead of an Injury, a great Advantage to them; as what ever Profit or Riches may accrue to *Ireland* thereby, would most certainly at long Run center in *England*, either by Means of our Absentees, or enabling us, in case of a War, the more effectually to assist *Great-Britain*.

INDEED I was inclined to set forth in these Tables the Exports and Imports for the Years ending

* Which would pay the Interest of Sixty two Million and a half at 4 per Cent.

ing the 25th of *March* 1766 and 1767, but I found there was very little Insight or Occasion for it, as they were pretty much the same as the two former Years, except in the Articles of Wine and Spirits, which have greatly encreased, and all the Observations and Reasoning would as justly hold, and may be made on the two former Years.

BEFORE I enter further upon this Head, of the Countries we trade with to most Advantage or Disadvantage;

I SHALL lay down the following Rules, as a Foundation to judge by :

FIRST, That is the most advantageous Trade, which takes off the greatest Quantity of the Produce of a Country, and especially of its Manufactures, and which imports fewest Commodities, and those capable of farther Improvement ; in which Case there will be the greatest Return in Specie to make up the Ballance.

SECOND, On the contrary, that is the most disadvantageous Trade, which takes off the smallest Quantity of the Produce of a Country, and that unmanufactured, and in Return imports the greatest Quantities of Commodities for Luxury, and fully wrought up, in which Case the Imports will most exceed the Exports in Value.

ACCORDING to this Rule, we shall find the Trade of *England* of great Importance to us, since it takes of upwards of £ 1,650,000, which is nearly equal to two Thirds of all our Exports, and amongst the rest the greatest Part of our Linen Manufacture.

BUT at the same time we must observe, that it falls under the second Rule of being disadvantageous to us, in taking from us many Commodities quite raw and unmanufactured, and others not

not near half worked, to that Height or Pitch they do, and we might bring them to, to their great Profit and Advantage, and our Loss, viz. Raw Wool, untann'd Hides 33,600, Tallow 388,000 Ct. Linen Yarn 31,715 Ct. Woollen Yarn 13,450 Stones, and Worsted 149,900 Stones *, and many other Articles, and again we take off several of their Commodities, either in Luxury, or that we could manufacture ourselves.

As Beer and Ale, near 30,000 Barrels, Bottles 44,000 Dozen, Coals, if we consider the Quantities imported in Creeks and Havens not entered in the *Custom-House*, upwards of 230,000 Tuns, Barley 48,000 Barrels, large Quantities of new and old Drapery, great Quantities of Earthen Ware, and to our Shame above 23,000 Barrels of Herrings, two thirds of which come from *England*, and one from *Holland*, near 30,000 Yards of Bone Lace, upwards of 180,000 Yards of Kentings, 900,000 Yards of Muslin, above 18,000 of Linen, Cotton, and Silk, *British* Manufacture †, Silk Manufactures, and several Articles of Tobacco, Sugar, Rum, and *East-India* Goods to a great Amount.

OUR Trade to *Spain*, *Portugal*, and the *Mediterranean* is very beneficial to us, as they take from us many Articles of the Produce of our own Country, and otherwise manufactured, and in Return we have large Remittances in Specie; for Instance, we send to *Spain* great Quantities of Butter, Salmon, upwards of 98,000 tann'd Hides, some Pork, upwards of 10,000 Pair of Shoes; indeed we have

* Our Exports in these Articles are every Day encreasing.

† These Articles are every Day encreasing upon us, though great Pains have been taken to provide ourselves with most of them.

from them Wine, Juice of Liquorish, a great Quantity of which we could raise here.

Holland and *Flanders* take from us some Butter untann'd Hides, and upwards of 2200 Quarters of Rape-feed, some Tallow; and send us upwards of 30,000 Gallons of Lintseed Oil, Linen, Paper, some Rum, Earthen-Ware, Herrings, Flax, and a great Quantity of Cambrick*, for though

we

* Since the former Editions of this Treatise, the *French* and *Flanders* Cambricks, and all others except of the Manufactures of *Great Britain*, have been by A&t of Parliament totally prohibited with an Intent to encourage this Manufacture in *Ireland*; but particularly in *Scotland*: And also the Consumption of Kentings, which are made there and imported here in great Quantities, and are a Substitute for Cambricks.

Indeed it is very doubtful if this Prohibition is of Benefit to *Ireland*, for though there are about 2000 Looms employed in that Manufacture, yet it is but in its Infancy; and wants greatly to be encouraged: And the former Duty on Foreign Cambricks, amounting to about £1200 a Year, was applied by the *Dundalk* Cambrick Company very successfully to that Purpose, which Benefit, the Manufacture is now totally deprived of, and that Company in Danger of losing 12 or 15 per Cent. of their Capital. A Company that deserves very well of the Publick as they at great Expence and Loss to themselves, and at much Pains and Trouble for a long Course of Years, have in a great Measure established that Manufacture in this Country.

Another Reason why the Benefit to this Country of that Prohibition is doubtful, immense Quantities of Cambrick are thrown into, not only *England*, but *Ireland*, from *Scotland*; much more than in the Opinion of many knowing People, can be manufactured in that Country, especially as it is not very many Years since it was introduced there, indeed, it is said, they do not depend upon their own Country for Cambrick Yarn, but import great Quantities from *France*, though the Exportation there is prohibited under very severe Penalties: And even allowing them this Assistance, which is certainly very great, and it is to be wondered at, why our People

we have exported in one Year upwards of 10,000 Yards of our own Manufacture, yet we have the same Year imported upwards of 136,000 Yards of that same Commodity, some from *England*, but chiefly from *Holland*, which shew how far that Manufacture falls short of our own Consumption; so

People do not do the same Thing, as I have heard much of the Want of good Cambrick Thread, it is thought great Quantities of Cambricks are imported by Stealth, and run into *Scotland* from *France*, some unbleached, and whitened after in *Scotland*: And thereby, not only the National Revenue and the former Assistance given the Cambrick Manufacture here are hurt, but they can undersell the Cambrick Manufacturers here, as they pay no Duty to the Ruin of that Manufacture; and as a further Evidence of the Running of these Goods: It is said no Foreign Cambricks are better or nicer made up, which Beginners could not do.

Though great Pains have been taken by the Revenue Officers to prevent the Importation here of Cambricks, other than the Manufactures of *Great-Britain* by Oaths and strict Enquiries; yet still the Wisdom of Parliament is wanting to be exerted to prevent this pernicious Practice, which must end if not stopt in Time in the Ruin of that Manufacture here.

To the Credit and Honour of the *Scotb*, it must be owned they take great Pains, and have been at considerable Expence to bring over some very able Manufacturers in the Cambrick Way from *France*; and give them great Encouragement, and these People have improved the Manufacture greatly of late Years, and have introduced not only the Methods made use of there in carrying on the Manufacture, but of improving their Yarn, and the Staple of their Flax by various Ways. In Order to make their Flax finer, and grow very high without the Danger of being lodged and thereby prejudiced: They make a Kind of Coarse Frame Work of Wood, about one Foot from the Ground where the Flax is sown, and lay over the Frame Bushes and Brush-Wood very thin, through which the Flax very freely grows like Peas that are stuck: And they do now steep their Flax in Bog-Holes and Bog Water as we do, but dig Pitts where clear Water is, and have a Means of letting frequently out the foul and in the fresh Water to the Flax, and they do not hackle their Flax as we do, by which it is broke and cut, but do it with a Brush.

that upon the Whole, it's difficult to say how the Balance stands with respect to our Trade to *Holland* and *Flanders*, but it is clear we could manufacture higher some of our Exports to that Country, and manufacture ourselves most of the Imports; so that in this Light we may judge it to be a disadvantageous Trade to us.

We send to *Hamburg*, *Norway*, and the *Baltick*, but very few Articles; and we have many Things from thence, principally Deal Boards, Timber of all Sorts, Iron, near 24,000 Hundred of undressed Hemp, and several other Articles of Naval Stores, which we cannot be without, or supply ourselves cheaper elsewhere; here we must be content with the Balance of Trade being against us, as we have an Advantage by another Way.

OUR Trade to *France* is extensive; we send them Beef, (but not so much as we did formerly, for our own Plantations take from us now the greatest Quantity, which is consider'd as a very happy Circumstance) untann'd Hides, and some other Articles; but we take from thence, immense Quantities of Wines and Brandy, and if we make Allowance for great Quantities of Spirits, Silk Manufacture, and some other expensive Articles clandestinely imported from thence, we shall find, I am sure, a considerable Balance against us, as appears plainly from a constant Course of Exchange in Favour of *France*.

MANY are of an Opinion, that the *French* Trade is very detrimental to this Country: 1st. Because our Importations from thence consists principally of Wine and Brandy, which are Materials for Luxury, and not for Use: 2dly, Because the *French* will take no Manufacture from us, not even a tann'd Hide, nor any other Produce of our Country, but what

what is useful for their Manufactures at Home, or necessary for the Support of their *American* Plantations Abroad ; indeed there is great Truth in these Observations, and more so now than formerly ; for it appears by the *Custom-House* Books some Time ago, they took great Quantities of Butter and Tallow from us, now very little, and less Beef than formerly ; but we should consider we have been long used to the drinking their Wines, and in all Likelihood will not fail to continue the Use of them, especially as the *Portuguese* have treated us so very ill lately in many Particulars, that we cannot have Wines so cheap from other Countries, and that the Duty laid thereon, is a great Support to our Establishment ; it could be wished indeed, that proper Representations were made to the *French*, that we shew them great Favour in this Particular, and that instead of raising the Price of Wine upon us, as they have done of late Years, they should rather lower it.

THE Trade to the Plantations is a new one, and ought greatly to be encouraged, and if we were permitted to trade directly there, it would be much more advantageous to us, and in the End I am certain to *Great-Britain*, for the Delay and Expence of being obliged to touch in some Part of * *Great-Britain*, upon many Occasions is very great ; they take from us now a great Quantity of our Beef, Butter, Pork, Linen, and other Articles ; we get from them, through *Great-Britain*, Tobacco, Sugars, Rum to a great Amount, and

* The People of *Ireland*, are the rather emboldened to hope for such a Permission, as they have been for many Years last past, and are likely to be for the Future at a very considerable Expence in paying Troops for the Defence of the Plantations.

many Particulars mentioned in the above Tables ; in Truth this Trade is greatly beneficial to us, not only as it takes off a great Share of the Produce of our Country, which formerly in a great Measure we were obliged to the Courtesy of *France* for, but it adds greatly by the Shipping made use of in it to the Naval Strength of *Great-Britain*.

3dly, I shall now consider the great Benefit which accrues to *England* by the Trade of *Ireland*, and how much it is its Interest to encourage it, which I shall endeavour to make appear in these Particulars.

1st, It appears from the *Custom-House* Books, that the Value of our Importations from all Countries at a Medium, yearly for the last Seven Years, ending the 25th of *March*, 1766, amounts to 1,936,587*l. 8s. 4d.* and that the Imports from *Great-Britain* alone, amount to 1,346,432*l. 0s. 6d.* which is near three Parts in four of our whole Imports, and they consist chiefly of Woollen and Silken Manufactures, Coffee, Tea, Callicoes, Muslins, Tobacco, Rum, Sugar, Coals, Hops, Bark, Iron-Ware, and Glass-Ware, and Beer, &c. all which are Commodities worked up to the Height : And I believe that upon Examination, it will be found that we take off a much greater Quantity of the several Manufactures of *England*, except their Woollen, than any other Country in *Europe*.

2dly, WHEREAS, 'tis commonly judged, that the Importation of Foreign Goods is a Loss to the Nation that receives them ; since otherwise Bullion would be returned in Lieu thereof ; we shall find on the contrary, that *England* receives a vast Benefit by most of the Goods we send them, as appears by what has been said above, and that Benefit would otherwise accrue to *Ireland*, and this more

more particularly in the Wool, Woollen-Yarn, and Worsteds, and also in the Raw Hides, Tallow, and Linen-Yarn.

3dly, It has been said before, that not above one Sixth of the Tunnage of Shipping employed yearly in the Trade of *Ireland*, belonged to the *Iriſh*, the other Five to the *Engliſh* and *Scotch*; and a very considerable Profit arises on this Article, many compute between 6 and £800,000, yearly.

4thly, To all these Advantages, we are to add the greatest of all, which arises from our Lords and Gentlemen of Estates and Employments, living and spending their Incomes Abroad, to the Value of upwards of a Million yearly, whereof the greatest Part is consumed in *England*, and may be reckoned as so much clear Gain to it, without the least Value returned for the same.

THIS plainly appears from the List of Absentees, hereunto prefixed, wherein the Names of the Persons, and the yearly Value of their Estates, Employments, and Pensions spent Abroad, are particularly mentioned; and for this Reason, because it would be impossible to convince the World, that so much of our Substance is carried off by this Channel, by any other Method, than by pointing out the Persons to whom, and the Estates from whence those Drains are made; but now every one, on examining the Particulars contained in the said List, which have been collected with great Pains into one View, may satisfy himself, whether they are truly set forth or not; 'tis but enquiring whether such and such Persons do not generally live Abroad, or were out of the Kingdom, at the Time mentioned; and whether they have not Estates of Employments to the Value set forth, and spend the same Abroad; and I am confident, that

that though in some few Particulars, I might be misinformed, and over-rate some Articles, yet it will be found, that I have under-rated others much more, having it always in my Intention, to be rather under, than over, and that I have omitted several, which will occur, upon reading, to every one's Observation, and that upon the Whole, those Drains we labour under, are much more than I have estimated them.

AND notwithstanding *Ireland* has parted with all its Substance, and reduced itself to the greatest Poverty, to enrich *England* yet there are some *Englishmen*, who being ignorant of the Cause of *Ireland*, and of the Advantages it brings to them, upon all Occasions represent us, as having Interests incompatible with them, and carrying on Trades, destructive to the *English* Commerce, whereas 'tis evident to all, considering impartial Persons, that there is no Country in *Europe* that brings so much Profit to another, as *Ireland* does to *England*, and therefore it is the real Interest and Policy of *England* to cherish, and encourage this her youngest Sister, all whose Acquisitions are sure to flow into her Bosom, for though our People were more fully employed, and our Exports enlarged, though our Gains from other Nations by a greater Liberty of Trade should be much more considerable than they are, yet we should not thereby be one Jot the richer, since no Part of this Wealth would stay with us, but would run off in the great Drain of Remittances to our Absentees to enrich *England*.

THE necessary and luxurious Importations of *England* are excessive.

IF most Part of the Bullion, which *England* gains from *Spain* and *Portugal*, is sent away to the *East*-

East-Indies, and not to answer the Ballances that lie against it in the Northern Trades, and the Demands also of Foreigners, who have great Shares in the public Funds, as many imagine to be the Case, it will need other Resources and Means to encrease its Wealth: These are furnished to it from those Countries which depend upon it, namely, the Plantations and *Ireland*; the Plantations enrich it by their Commodities, which are re-exported to other Countries, and *Ireland*, by its continual Remittances in Money.

OUR Case is much the same with the Plantations; the Produce and Profit of all our Labour issues constantly to the People of *England*; and therefore it is its Interest to give the People of *Ireland* full Employment, to encourage their Industry in every Branch of Trade, and not stop any Inlet through which Treasure may come into it, since every Acquisition and Profit that we can make, will at last center among them: If they would look upon us with the same Favour, and in the same Light, as they ought to do their Plantations, they would justly reckon us a main Foundation of their Wealth, and think it not consistent with their Interest to cramp our Industry, or render our Labour trifling and insignificant.

UPON a candid and fair Enquiry and Reasoning it will be found, that there is no Trade or Manufacture that *England* is possessed of, but it is for its Advantage to let the People of *Ireland* into the full Enjoyment of it; not excepting the Woollen Manufacture, the principal Foundation of all their Trade, and which they are so jealous of, and value at so high a Rate.

THIS Assertion may seem a strange Paradox to several Persons, but I think may be supported with many

many good Reasons ; but I shall first take Notice of, and examine the Grounds of those Complaints, which are frequently raised by some in *England*, of the Transportation of great Quantities of Wool, and Woollen Manufacture, from *Ireland* to *France*, *Spain* and *Portugal*, to the great Prejudice of their Woollen Trade, by the Sale of *Irish* Stuffs, or *French* Manufacture made of *Irish* Wool ; and as a Proof of this it is urged, that the Quantity of Wool transported from hence to *England* is much diminished of late Years, and therefore they conclude, that all the Wool that is wanting to make up the former Quantities, is run to *France*.

In answer to this it must be owned, that there is not so great a Quantity of Wool exported to *England* of late Years, as used to be ; but this Diminution is easily accounted for, and it is not owing to the Running of Wool, but arises principally from the following Causes :

First, That in the North of *Ireland* there are hardly any Sheep now to be found, since the Inhabitants are grown very numerous, and have applied themselves principally to the Linen Manufactures, and sowing of Corn for their Subsistence ; so that they are forced to supply themselves with Wool and Mutton from other Provinces.

Secondly, In other Parts of the Kingdom, the Farmers finding that Wool lay under a great Dis-
couragement, and could not afford a Profit an-
swerable to the high Price of Lands, have gene-
rally lessened their Flocks of Sheep, and employ-
ed their Lands to other Uses, which turn to a
better Account, such as feeding Black Cattle,
keeping Dairies, plowing for Corn, Rape, Hemp
and Flax, &c. for which they find a ready Mar-
ket

ket Abroad ; whereas they are not allowed at all to export their Wool manufactured.

Thirdly, We are further to consider, that the People of *Ireland* are much encreased in Numbers, and are fallen into a greater Wear and Use of their own Manufactures, and, consequently, must consume a greater Quantity of their Wool.

We see this Diminution might have happened, though we should not have run one Stone of Wool, and it is likely this Diminution will still encrease ; for what Motive can we have to deal in a Commodity which we are not allowed to export or manufacture to Advantage, and only to make ourselves Shepherds for *England*? This Cause of Complaint is like to fall soon to the Ground, since we find it our Interest to lessen our Number of Sheep, and to keep no more of them than are necessary for our own Consumption, and then probably we shall be courted to return to our Flocks again.

It cannot be denied, that some Wool and Stuffs are run out of the Kingdom, and it is impossible altogether to prevent it in such a wide extended Coast, full of Creeks, notwithstanding the Vigilance and Care of the Officers, who are perhaps the strictest in the Execution of this Part of their Office, of any in *Europe* ; and we see that in *England*, all their Laws and Endeavours cannot prevent this mischievous Traffick. It is remarkable, that one of our Merchants having observed many Packs of Wool landed in the West of *England* from *Ireland*, soon after saw the same Packs landed in one of the Ports of *France*, where he happened to come, and knew them by their Marks : And upon Enquiry made in the

Ports of *France*, it was found, that a greater Quantity of Wool was imported thither from *England* than from *Ireland*.

If any Woollen Manufacture is clandestinely carried from hence to *Portugal* or *Spain*, (for *France* will take nothing but Wool) the Quantity cannot be great; the Hazards on Exportation are so many, and Forfeitures so great, that it is hardly worth any one's while to venture; and as such Exporters are poor, they must sell for what they can get; and perhaps their selling their Goods at a low Rate, though in a small Quantity, has given the greatest Offence; and for that Reason, the *French* and *Dutch* will be as ready to join in the Outcry as the *English*.

If the *French*, or any other Foreigners, should sell all their Goods at the same Market Abroad, that *England* does, and remit all the Money arising from thence to *England*, to be spent there, will any Body say, that so much is not clear Gain to *England*, though some of its Merchants may possibly suffer a little thereby, in the Sale of their Goods?

THIS is the very Case of *Ireland*, so much complained of; which leads me to make good my Assertion, that it is the Interest of *England* to leave the Woollen Trade free and open to the People of *Ireland*.

If *Ireland* was the only Country, besides *England*, which produced Wool, it would then be in the Power of *England*, and its Interests by Restrictions laid upon us, to reserve the whole Trade to themselves; and we should readily acquiesce, and submit to those Laws, however severe they may otherwise be thought: But the Case is much otherwise; *Spain* produces great Quantities of fine Wool,

Wool, and all the other Parts of *Europe* raise a great Deal of the coarse, and a considerable Parcel of the fine Sort; so that they do not want Materials for Woollen Manufacture. Stopping the Door upon *Ireland*, has only served to open and enlarge that Trade in foreign Countries, by driving great Numbers of our Weavers to *France*, and other Places, where they have set up the same Trade, and thereby have done *England* much more Injury, than if they had stayed at Home, and were allowed to export their Woollen Manufactures.

WE find by sad Experience, that since the Revolution, the *French*, *Dutch* and *Germans*, have encouraged and cultivated their Woollen Manufactures to a great Height, and still go on in improving the same; and by the Cheapness of Labour and Provisions, are able to undersell the *English* already in their own and foreign Markets. The *French* have thereby in a great Measure engrossed the Woollen Trade in *Turkey* and the *Mediterranean*, which was formerly carried on by the *English*; and many Provinces in *Germany* now supply themselves with their own Manufactures, which they likewise had formerly from *England*. We find also that the *Spaniards* have, either out of Revenge or Policy, prosecuted the Woollen Trade with such Vigour, that they now cloath their Armies with their own Manufactures, and in Imitation of the Court, the Nobility and better Sort are cloathed the same Way; and that *English* Bays, which used to be the common Wear of the Country, is not now made Use of there. If this Humour goes on, the *Spaniards* may in Time prohibit

prohib^t the Exportation of their Wool, the principal Ingredient of the fine Drapery of *England*.

This is a very disagreeable Scene of Affairs, which should inspire the *English* with Resolutions of taking other Measures to mend their Condition. They see the *French*, *Dutch*, and others, have rivalled, and even wormed them out of a great Part of their Woollen Trade; and they are in Danger of being driven out of the best Part of what remains, unless some new Course be taken to retrieve their Woollen Trade, which can be done no other Way, than by being able to sell as cheap as the *French* and *Dutch* in foreign Markets; for it is a Maxim which always holds good, that he commands the Market, who sells best and cheapest; this is what the *English* cannot do of themselves, considering the high Price of Labour, Taxes, and Manner of Living in *England*, which lie heavy on their Manufactures, and make them come dearer to any foreign Market, than those of other Countries which rival them; but if they should think proper to employ the People of *Ireland*, in making any Part of their Woollen Manufactures, and especially such Sorts of them as they are rivalled in by others, they would soon be liable to drive the *French* and *Dutch* out of any Branch of foreign Trade, by selling as cheap, and better Commodities than they.

AND this we have Reason to believe would be the Case, considering that the Price of Labour and Provisions in *Ireland* is very low, and that the People are industrious, and live poor and cheap, and have little Taxes on their Consumptions. There is no Way left for the People of *England* to recover any lost Trade, but by the same Ways and

and Means whereby others got it from them, which is, by selling cheaper than their Neighbours; nor is there any Course left to bring that about, but by taking in the Assistance of the People of *Ireland*, and employing their Hands in such Manner, and such Work, as they shall find most convenient.

If, for Instance, the Merchants and People of *England*, either on Commission or otherwise, would employ the *Irish* in making up Woollen Goods of various Kinds, and get a Permission to send them so manufactured to *England*, in order to be exported Abroad, by this Means, the *Irish* Wool would be worked up, and not sent Abroad raw; the poor People would be employed, and the *English* Merchant would gain a considerable Profit at the foreign Market, or, if the *Turkey* Merchants were allowed to work up in *Ireland*, such Sort of Goods as the *French* sell in *Turkey*, and to export them directly thither, and could, by underselling the *French*, dispose of a much greater Quantity of such Goods, than they do at present, would not this be apparently for the Benefit of *England*? The greatest Part of the Profit would redound to the *English* Merchants, and the poor *Irish* Manufacturer, would be only employed in the most laborious and least gainful Part of the Work, and thereby get a bare Livelihood. It is the *English* Merchants, who have Stocks of Money, and could employ the poor People of *Ireland*, that would have the Benefit of their Labour; and if the *Irish* should themselves gain a little by this Working, and being instrumental in increasing their Wealth, even that little would not stay with us, but be carried off, as all our Wealth is, to maintain our Absentees in *England*.

If under the present Discouragements, Hazards and Forfeitures, some of our People will venture to carry some Woollen Goods to *Portugal* and *Spain*, and be able to undersel all others there, for which, no Doubt, the *French* and *Dutch* are as much set against us on this Account, as some *English*; this shews to a Demonstration, that the *English*, by the Help of *Irish* Labour and Industry, could be able to undersel all others, and drive them out of foreign Markets; in obtaining which Advantage, and keeping it afterwards, they may have full Employment for their own People, as well as the People of *Ireland*; and it is certainly more for the Advantage of *England*, that the People of *Ireland* should have a Share in this Trade, than that Foreigners should run away with it, since every Addition to our Wealth, will enlarge our Remittances to *England*.

WE do not in the least imagine or expect, that the People of *England* will come into any Indulgence of this Kind, for our Sakes alone, but, if it is apparently for the Advantage of *England*, it is to be presumed, they will not be blind to their own Interest, or neglect any Expedients, or Means, for encreasing the Trade or Riches of their Kingdom, though they may seemingly interfere with the Interest of particular Companies, or Traders. I am persuaded, that a proper Use of the Labour and Industry of the People of *Ireland*, is the best and surest Fund to encrease the Wealth of *England*.

Fourthly, I shall now offer some Hints, and Proposals, for the Improvement and Regulation of our Trade.

BUT

But am forced to premise what I have to say, with this melancholy Reflection, that as long as this wasteful Export of our Treasure continues, and carries off every Acquisition we can make, it will be in vain to offer any Expedients for increasing our Manufactures, lessening our Imports, or improving our Trade; for, every Inlet of Wealth we can make, will be too little to feed and satisfy this devouring Drain, which will ever keep us poor and miserable.

It must very much affect every one who wishes well to this Country, to consider that all our Toil and Labour can avail us nothing, and will only serve to continue that Evil upon us, which is the Cause of all our Poverty: For, poor we must ever be, so long as all the Advantages we can make by our Industry and Trade, fall so much short of our Remittances Abroad. If we must be always poor, it is better to enjoy Poverty with Ease, than to sweat and toil without any Hopes of mending our Condition, and without any other Effect than that of supporting the Vanity of our People Abroad, who treat their Country with Contempt, and ruin it without Remorse.

But, as I am not without Hopes that some Measures will be thought of, and soon put in Execution, that may in some Degree remove our present Grievances, and go to the Bottom of the Evil; I shall, on that Account, humbly offer some Hints, which may be improved to good Purposes, by others of greater Abilities, or may put them on thinking on better Ways and Means of serving their Country.

First,

First, The Linen Manufacture*, I may truly say, is the Staple of *Ireland*, without which it could not subsist : It is the Source of almost all the Wealth and Riches we have. This Manufacture has increased greatly of late Years, and has extended itself to most parts of the Kingdom ; and notwithstanding there is still great Room for further Improvement and Extension, from the great Demand there is for the low Price of Linens, under 18d. a Yard, for *America* and other Coun-

* One of the greatest Obstructions to the Benefits and Increase of the Manufactures of *Ireland*, is the frequent Riots and Combinations amongst the Manufacturers, it would be highly becoming the Wisdom of Parliament, to endeavour to find out some Scheme or Method, to prevent them. Many worthy Men think an Army necessary in *Ireland*, even on this Account.

It is a Discredit, and the Peace and Happiness of the Country are too often disturbed by them. I am afraid there is not always a proper Attention and Proportion kept up as to the Prices and Profits on Manufactures, between the Master Manufacturers and the Journeyman.

In *England* I am told the Legislature have thought proper to fix, by Act of Parliament, the Prices and Wages to be paid by the Masters to the Journeyman ; and they are highly punishable, if one gives or the other receives more than are there mentioned. Perhaps some Regulation of this Kind would be useful, and as the Price of Provisions may make an Alteration necessary, and our Parliament sits but every second Year, it may be prudent to lodge a Power some where, to vary the Prices and Wages, as Circumstances occur. Suppose the Masters were to appoint six Men by Ballot, and the Journeyman likewise six, and these twelve, together with the three senior Magistrates that shall attend, of Cities, or Towns Corporate, or Counties, were empowered to examine into these Matters, and that they or the Majority of them were finally to regulate and settle them. Or if the Legislature thought it not convenient to go through such an Act of Parliament, they might pass an Act establishing such a Jurisdiction, and they finally to regulate and settle all such Matters.

tries

tries, and we are much obliged to *England* for the 1½d. a Yard Bounty on the Exportation from thence; and with respect to the Hempen Manufacture, we have made very little Progress in that, though there are very few Countries better qualified for carrying it on. The Cambrick Manufacture has encreased greatly of late Years, yet it falls far short of supplying our Home Consumption in the Article of clear Cambricks; yet I have been told that there are upwards of one thousand five hundred Looms now at that Work in the North of *Ireland*. The Cambrick Company has great Merit with the Public, for they, at great Expence and Attention to the Encouragement of that Business, brought over from *Flanders* a great many Manufacturers, whom they employed at *Dundalk*, by which, that Manufacture has greatly spread over all that Side of the Country; and now, private Persons can carry on that Trade more extensive and to greater Advantage than the Company; but this is entirely owing to the Enlight and Encouragement given by them, who, notwithstanding the Bounty given by Parliament, suffered greatly in their private Fortunes, and were almost broke by the Expence they were at, and the Losses they sustained for many Years, from want of Knowledge in the Manufacture, and the proper Method of disposing of the Cambrick.

It would be a great Benefit to this Kingdom, if we could extend our Cambrick Manufacture in the Article of Clear Goods, which, as yet, we have not done, and it will take up some Time to nurse it up, to prevent the Importation of them from *France*; yet, till we can make sufficient of these Goods it will be in the highest Degree imprudent

prudent in us to take off any Part of the Duty on foreign Cambrick, as that Duty is a great Support, not only to the Linen Manufacture, but to the Cambrick also, and is the Means to encourage and enable us to extend the Cambrick in all its Branches, and without it, it must soon fall to the Ground. I find that Duty brings in about 7000*l.* yearly; three Parts in six, or one half, goes to the hereditary Revenue, two Parts are appropriated to the Linen Manufacture, and the remaining sixth Part to the Cambrick.

WHY should not we endeavour to make Kentings, and encourage, by Premiums and Bounties, our Manufacturers to go into that Business? Sure our Country is as fit for it, as any other, and what a large Sum would we save, by even preventing the Importation of at least 189,000 Yards now imported?

THE Premiums and Encouragement given by the Linen Board, have answered well, and been a great Spur and Incentive to the Increase and Extension of the Linen Manufacture; it is to be hoped, it will be employed to the Encouragement of those Branches of it, we have so great a Demand for from our Plantations. Funds of this Kind are of great Public Utility to infant Manufactures and Trades, that require Instruction in the Beginning, and Encouragement to overcome the Difficulties and Losses which always attend the first Attempts, in every Invention and Trade.

I CANNOT quit this Head, without taking Notice of the very great Importation of undressed Flax, in the Year 1764, as appears by the Table, no less than 53870 C. Wt. in Value upwards of 134,600*l.* What a shameful Indolence and Neglect is this, in an Article of so great Importance, relative to our

our Linen Manufacture; and that too, in a Country, where it is well known Flax may be raised in great Abundance, with only common Care and Industry? What a Hazard, what a Risk do we run, to depend upon any Country whatsoever, for the Primum of a Manufacture of so much Importance to the Nation?

Our Soil and Country, are well suited to the Hempen Manufacture, and it was thriving and extending greatly some Years ago, till a Damp was thrown on it, I may say a Stop was put to it, by the laying a Duty on it in *England*; though they import from foreign Countries, at least five Times as much of that Manufacture, as they make at Home. But notwithstanding, why do we not raise Hemp, and manufacture it, at least, as much as will answer our own Consumption? It is plain we do not, from the Table of Imports.

Secondly, What very large Sums of Money are Yearly carried out of the Kingdom, in Specie, for the Article of Coals. By the Custom-house Books it appears, that there is entered very near 186,000 Ton, and it is imagined there are upwards of 50,000 Ton more brought from Abroad, and consumed here, that are not entered, nor can, from the Situation of the Places where they are imported; computing of this very low, here is a constant yearly Drain of upwards of 150,000*l.* Indeed, this Year, it may be reckoned higher, for the Colliers have entered into a Combination, not to sell under 16*s.* a Tun, and accordingly have kept up to that Price *.

* This Combination to keep up the Price of Coals still continues.

We have large Collieries of our own, and good in their Kind, and wanting nothing but the Means of bringing them to Market, a Navigation, which can be, we are told, compleated for about 17,000*l.* and then we shall have this Necessary of Life in great Abundance, free from the Combinations, the Frauds, the Monopolies, the Exactions of Colliers, Coal Factors, and Engrossers, and save the sending out of the Kingdom so large a Sum annually in Specie; what a Benefit would this be to our poor People, to have them employed in this Way, and such a Quantity of Cash circulate round the Kingdom? Sure, no Difficulty could arise in obtaining so small a Sum as 17000*l.* considering the great National Benefit that would accrue thereby, if any Dependence could be had, or Security given, for the compleating the Navigation for such a Sum.

IT is a melancholy Thing to reflect, what Sums have been given away within these last twenty Years for Navigations, doubtful in their Use and Practicability; and how great a Part of those Sums have been consumed in Salaries, and thrown away by the Mismanagement and Ignorance, I will not say worse, of our Undertakers, and our own Want of Knowledge and Skill that Way. Look further, and see the Accounts laid before Parliament, and our Establishment, Civil and Military, and above all the List of Pensions of all Kinds: What an enormous Sum have they swelled to of late Years, upwards of 96,667*l.* and yet, at the same Time, this important Article of Coals, the producing this great Necessary of Life, the saving so large a Sum as 150,000*l.* Yearly, has been starved and neglected.

THERE

THERE has been, indeed, of late established, an excellent Institution, to prevent the excessive high Price of Coals, I mean the Public Coal-yards in the City of *Dublin* *, by which Coals cannot well rise above 18*s.* a Ton; for when they exceed that Sum, the Coal-yards are to sell out at 18*s.* to the Poor and Indigent, under certain Regulations; this has, and will, probably, keep the Price under 18*s.* but then, what an exorbitant Profit have these Harpies at this Rate! For, upon Examination, it appeared very clear, that every Person employed in the Coal Trade, would have a reasonable and sufficient Profit upon a Sale at about 13*s.* a Ton.

Thirdly. We have great Plenty of Fish of all Kinds upon our Coasts, and our Ports and Bays are most happily situated to carry on that valuable Branch of Trade, which all our Neighbours, even upon our Coast, make so great Profit by, and even supply us. What an Indolence and a Shame is this, and especially now, that the Legislature

* There has been another Coal Yard lately established, by another Act of Parliament, in the City of *Cork*, and though each of them are an Expence of about 400*l.* a Year to the Nation, for Salaries of Officers, Coal Yards, &c. yet it is made Amends for, by the keeping down the Price of Coals under 18*s.* But certainly some further Regulations in these Coal Yards are wanting, to make them more extensively useful, either by enlarging the Quantity to be given out at Times, or making them more easy to be come at, for the Poor complain they would rather go to the other Coal Yards, or to the Ships, and pay something more, as they can get them easier and at less Expence. Regulations are likewise necessary to be made in the Coal Trade, to prevent Combinations for keeping the Coals up to 16*s.* a Ton, either by obliging the Ships in the Harbour to come up to the Quays and sell, or in some other Shape.

has

has given us so great a Bounty, and Encouragement, as they have done by a late Act of Parliament * ?

Fourthly. See by the above Tables, what large Quantities of the Silk and Woollen Manufactures we pay for and import ; it is true, by the Bounty of Parliament, and the Patronage of the *Dublin Society*, the Silk Manufacture is beginning to revive, and the Poor, who were distressed formerly to a great Degree, for Want of Employment, are beginning to get Bread. I have been told the Consumption of *Ireland* in this Article is about 130,000 *l.* yearly, and that we do not manufacture above 30,000 *l.* of it ; and that we consume of the plain Silks alone about 80,000 *l.* in Value. Our fancied Goods, certainly, do not come up to those we have from Abroad, but the plain we have, and can make to Perfection ; and would it not be an immense Thing for us to employ our Poor, and prevent the sending Abroad for this Article of plain Goods, by which such a Sum as 80,000 *l.* would be saved.

WHAT a Disgrace is it to our People of Fashion and Distinction, to see them despise our own Manufactures, and so fond of foreign Goods, by which they are become even the Dupes of some Tradesmen, who, finding they cannot sell *Irish* Goods, though exceeding good of their Kind, are obliged to say they came from Abroad, and raise

* Several Acts of Parliament have passed within this six or eight Years, giving very large Premiums, and payable directly out of the Treasury, as an Encouragement for Building and Manning large Fishing Wherries, to carry on the Fisheries on the Coasts of this Kingdom.

the Price, and consequently their Profit ; and by this pious Fraud (if I may say so) in Favour of our own Country, great Quantities of *Irish* Goods are sold for Foreign, and this Management is made Use of with Respect to Woollen Goods, as well as Silk, in order to force a Trade of *Irish* Goods ; and so fully convinced are some very sensible Manufacturers of the Benefit of this Kind of Fraud, that they declare, the fixing of any Kind of Mark, that would with Certainty distinguish the *Irish* from the *English* Goods, would be greatly injurious to the *Irish* Trade. But we are in hopes, not only to extend this valuable Branch of our Manufactures, but get over all Prejudices, when so many worthy and public-spirited Ladies, have taken upon them the Patronage and Protection of the Silk Manufacture, and its Ware-house in *Parliament-Street*.

WITH Respect to the Woollen Manufacture, I have mentioned above my Reasons, why it would be of Use, even to *England*, to permit us to export several Articles in the coarse and low priced Goods, which Trade they have been in a great Measure beat out of, by their Neighbours selling them cheaper in foreign Markets ; and by this Means our *Irish* Wool would be consumed at Home, and not clandestinely sent Abroad, to the great Prejudice of *England*. I am credibly informed, with Respect to the clandestine Exportation of Wool, much more *Irish* Wool is carried Abroad that Way through *England*, than directly from *Ireland*.

Fifthly. It is very alarming, with Respect to the Health and Morals of the People, to think what a Quan-

a Quantity of Spirits is * consumed in this Kingdom ; of Brandies, you will see from the Table, upwards of 57,000 Gallons, imported from *France* and *Holland* ; and of Rum above 1,230,840 Gallons ; beside it is imagined, there is clandestinely run above half the Quantity, to the great Injury of the Public Revenue, and the fair Trader ; add to this, the immense Quantity of home-made Spirits consumed here. I think it would be of great National Consequence, to prevent the immoderate Use and Consumption of this pernicious Liquor : Both in *Great-Britain* and here, it has been attempted in vain ; but since that cannot be effected, let us see if we cannot in some Measure prevent the excessive Use of it, and at the same Time turn it to a National Benefit. I have been informed by some Physicians of great Knowledge and Character in their Profession, that Spirits distilled from Grain, are more wholesome than Brandies, or Rums ; why may we not contrive some Way to prevent the Importation of Brandies, and even Rums, and encourage the distilling of home-made Spirits from Grain ? It would be a Means of improving our Country, by encouraging Tillage and Agriculture, and prevent the ill Consequences of Running of Spirits. I am told an effectual Method to prevent this pernicious Practice, would be to take off one Shilling of the twenty Pence, I think † in the Pound, Duty on black Teas, that is, Boheas ; for it is imagined, very little of that Kind is entered, or pays Duty, most is run, and that

* The Importation of Spirits have greatly encreased within these few last Years.

† This has been done, and great Benefit has ensued thereby ; see a former Note.

the Runners would not find their Account in that Practice, if they had not the Benefit of running these Kind of Teas along with the Spirits, and in the End no Prejudice would arise to the Public Revenue, for in this as well as in many other Articles, where the Duty is high, a low Duty, if paid, would bring in more Money than the high, where very little is entered and most of it run.

I shall not trouble my Reader, with entering more minutely into the many Articles of our Exports, that we might improve and extend; or, our Imports, which we might prevent, either entirely, or in a great Measure: But beg Leave, to refer them to the Tables, and to the List of Premiums that have been offered by the *Dublin Society*, this Year; but I cannot omit to mention in general, the Importation of near 30,000 Barrels of Beer and Ale*; this Article, I understand, can be sold cheaper here than we can brew it for Sale, by the Drawback of great Part of the Duty on Exportation, and by the Duty being very small on Importation here. Should not this put us upon encreasing the Duty on Importation; see the Quantity of Hard and Earthen Ware imported; and also, of Rape and Lintseed Oil, all which we

* The Importation of Beer and Ale has lately encreased, and is likely to do so for two Reasons, by the Drawbacks being allowed of almost all the British Duty, they can and do sell English and Scotch Beer cheaper here than they can do the Irish, and the Ale-drapers make a greater Profit by the Sale of the former. And again, they do not make the Malt in Ireland, any thing near so good, or to yield as much as that that comes from Abroad. Indeed the Dublin Society have attempted to remedy this last Evil, by giving between 4 and 500l. a Year for five Years, in Premiums for the Encouragement of making good Malt in the Country, and bringing it to Dublin.

might manufacture to the great Employment of our industrious Poor, and Improvement of our Land.

HAVING thus, with the greatest Candour and Impartiality, laid before the Reader, the yearly Value of the Remittances in Money, which we may reasonably be supposed to make to our Gentlemen who live Abroad; and having also considered what Ballance in our Favour we have, by our whole Trade, to enable us to maintain those Remittances; and, having likewise taken into Consideration several other Articles, which do either increase or lessen the Ballance, I leave it to every one to judge, whether the Inferences and Observations, drawn from thence, are well grounded. It appears on one Hand that our Absentees draw out of the Kingdom, yearly, near a Million and a half; and on the other, that the Ballance in our Favour, by our Trade, (which is the Fund we have to discharge these Drafts upon us with) amounts to no more than 489,836*l.* yearly, according to the publick Estimates, and by consequence, there will be wanting upwards of 570,000*l.* to make up these Payments.

How we have been able hitherto to support all this, I leave to others to account for; perhaps that Stock, which we have been gathering for many Years, may hitherto have enabled us to answer these Demands upon us, when they were more moderate; but, it is impossible for us to subsist much longer, under such a wasteful Drain. It is evident, by the great Scarcity of Money in the Kingdom, that our Stock is draining off to the Lees.

If this be our Case now, and that the present Cash of the Kingdom is no Way sufficient to carry on

on our domestic or foreign Trade, and that there is a great Stagnation in our Business already, for Want of Money, what must be our Case in a little Time, when all the rest of our Species shall be carried off, as it must certainly be, if our Gentlemen Abroad shall continue to draw it from us, in the Degree they do at present? The Consequence will then be, that we shall not be able to support our Establishment, and shall cease to be an Advantage to *England*, which will ever receive less from us, in Proportion as we grow poorer. It is to be hoped, the People of *England* will not be against our taxing the Estates of our Absentees, since it may enable us to pay the Taxes of our Country, support our Government, and prevent our becoming a Burthen to them; and we may presume, they may be the rather inclined to approve of such a Tax, since it is more than probable, that most of our Absentees will, notwithstanding this, still live among them, and not forego their foreign Pleasures, on that Account.

I HAVE taken particular Notice of the Benefits which accrue to *England* by its Dealings with *Ireland*, and that it is its Interest to let the People of *Ireland* into a free Enjoyment of every Branch of Trade, and to give full Employment to all their Hands, since every Profit arising from thence will only serve to enlarge their Remittances to that Kingdom.

If the People of *England* will still keep us under the same Restrictions in Trade, let them send us Home our Gentlemen; or, if they will have our Gentlemen live and spend their Fortunes amongst them, it is to be hoped, that they will give us a greater Liberty of Trade, to enable us to maintain

them there ; one or other of these Expedients seems to be absolutely necessary at present for the Support of this Kingdom.

THE last Thing I propose to speak of in this Treatise, was to make some Observations, and offer some Reasons, why the Absentees should be obliged to contribute, in some Shape, to the Welfare and Support of the Country they derive their Honours, Estates and Incomes from.

INDEED, as this Evil grows daily upon us, and has already thrown the Nation into a wasteful Consumption of all its Substance, it is high Time to apply some Remedy to stop this immoderate Drain, that has reduced us so low : And this can be done no other Way than, in Imitation of our Ancestors, and of all wise Nations in the like Case, by taxing the Estates and Incomes of those, who out of Wantonness and Luxury, choose to spend all the Profits thereof Abroad, to the Impoverishment and Ruin of their native Country.

It is not reasonable to expect, that the Security of the *Protestant* Religion and Interest in this Kingdom, the Prosperity of the People, and Safety of the Government, should all give Way to the Gratifications of our Gentlemen Abroad ; if they set so high a Value on their foreign Pleasures, that for the Enjoyment of them, the Kingdom must be brought into Ruin, it is to be hoped, they shall not be indulged in all this, without contributing their Quota towards the Charges of the Public. As the Case stands at present, while all others at Home pay largely in Taxes, for the Maintenance of our Establishment, these Gentlemen, though many of them have nothing but what they derive from this

Coun-

Country, yet pay not one Farthing for the Support of it; they have, indeed, the Merit of paying, by their foreign Consumptions, the Taxes of all Countries but their own.

It is notorious, that many of our Absentees have, by their Rents and otherwise, drawn out of this Kingdom many Millions of Pounds the last twenty Years, and yet none of them have contributed to the Support of the publick Charges, as much as the meanest Person who pays for a Quart of Ale.

It cannot be supposed, that our *Irish* Landlords, who live Abroad, and consume no Part of the Produce or Manufacture of their Country, pay the least Share of the Duties or Taxes thereof, or relieve any of its Poor, whose Miseries they never see, or make any Improvements, who never mean to live among us; nay, their living Abroad seems to have so far alienated their Affections from their Country, and hardened their Tempers towards it, that they, above all others, are remarkable for setting their Estates at a Rack Rent, so as hardly to allow a Livelihood to their poor Tenants, by whom they are supported.

THERE is no Country in *Europe* which produces and exports so great a Quantity of Beef, Butter, Tallow, Hides and Wool, as *Ireland* does; and yet our common People are very poorly cloathed, go bare-legged half the Year, and very rarely taste of that Flesh-meat, with which we so much abound. We pinch ourselves in every Article of Life, and export more than we can well spare, with no other Effect or Advantage, than to enable our Gentlemen and Ladies to live more luxuriously Abroad.

AND

AND they are not content to treat us thus, but add Insult to ill Usage; they reproach us with our Poverty, at the same Time that they take away our Money; and can tell us, we have no Diversions or Entertainments in *Ireland* for them, when they themselves disable us from having better, by withdrawing from us.

BUT, it is to be hoped, that our Legislature will take Care that those Gentlemen, who spend their Fortunes Abroad, and are thereby the greatest, and almost only Cause of its Poverty and Distress, shall not be the only Persons favoured, and exempted from paying the Taxes thereof*.

A TAX of two, three, or four Shillings in the Pound on the Estates, Pensions, Profits of Employments, and Incomes of Absentees, and also, some certain Sum on all Persons who are in Possession of, or shall obtain Titles of Honour amongst the Nobility of *Ireland*, would, in all Likelihood, remove the Evil complained of; for, if the Absentees should return Home, then the Publick Revenue would increase to a greater Produce in the Customs and Excise, in Proportion as the Home Consumption would be enlarged, by the spending of so much more Money amongst us; or, if they would notwithstanding live Abroad, then a considerable Fund would be provided for some useful and beneficial Object in this Country.

* Since the Publication of this Treatise in 1767, the Legislature have thought proper to remedy this Evil in Part, by laying a Tax of 4s. in the Pound, on all Pensions, Salaries, and Profits of Employments of Absentees by Act of Parliament, the last Session; when they do not reside within the Kingdom six Months in the Year, and free from all dispensing Clauses; see the Appendix.

I KNOW

I know well, that many Difficulties may arise to and upon the raising such a Tax; and how will you apply it? For the former Tax of four Shillings in the Pound on Absentees, which subsisted for so many Years, answered no good Purpose, by being applied to defray the publick Charges of Government, as hath been mentioned, in the former Part of this Treatise.

As to the first of these Objections, I have found somewhere this Question asked, why should not we lay a Duty on the Exportation of our Nobility, and Gentry, according to their Titles and Incomes? They travel for Health or Pleasure. Should not they pay £50 or £100, or some certain Sum, to their own Country, for Permission to spend the Remainder of their Fortunes in another?

You see by what has been mentioned, the legal Provisions our Ancestors made upon this Head; and why may not the Tax be raised in pretty much the same Manner, but free from the dispensing Clauses, as the four Shillings in the Pound was raised by Virtue of the former several Acts of Parliament, so long in Force in this Kingdom? And with respect to the raising a Tax on such of our Nobility as have no Estates in Ireland, which seems to be attended with the greatest Difficulty, you see what was done by the Act of 10 Charles I. Chap. 21, which never has been repealed. Besides, I do not think but the Wisdom of our Legislature may and can contrive Ways and Means to raise such a Tax, if they are once convinced of the Propriety and Usefulness of it. *To charge them who are rich in this World, is Religion and true Policy, and to ease the poor Labourer, is equal to it.*

THESE
are our last but one word need even read, certe-
nally to be read, to make the following listes below
Ques-

THERE does not seem to be so great Difficulty as at first imagined in doing this; other Countries have raised Taxes, where the Difficulty seems to have been greater.

IN Holland, every Man that accepts of an Employment, is obliged to pay such a certain proportionable Part of it to the State, and a proportionable Tax on the Promotion of Land and Sea Officers and Clergy. There is also there, what is called a Collateral Tax, by which the Inheritor of a Fortune in Land, or even Money, not descending to him in a right Line, pays two and a half per Cent. to the State, when they sell Land or Employments, the Buyer and Seller pay two or three per Cent. of the Value to the State, and they have a Method of raising and collecting these Taxes with Ease.

As to the other Objection, relative to the Application of the Tax.

THERE are two great and National Charities in this Kingdom, neither of which have any certain Support any Way adequate to the great Expence of them, or the vast Benefit arising to this Country by them; I mean the Charter Schools, and the Foundling Hospital at the Work-house; the former supports about 2500 Persons, and has for its Object the training up the Children of the Papists of this Kingdom, of a low Condition, not only to be useful Members of Society, by instructing them in Husbandry and Manufactures, and binding them Apprentice to Protestant Masters, but to be good Protestants*. We know well

* No Body that is pleased to enquire into the Numbers of Popish Children, that have been bred up, and sent into the World useful Protestant Members of Society, from the Opening

how slow a Progress the Reformation made in the lower Class of People of this Kingdom, and I am much afraid the Number of Papists have increased

Opening of the Charter-Schools to this Time, but what must highly approve of that Institution, and have only to lament that its Influence has not been still more extensive, and its Funds more adequate to the great Benefits that might thereby accrue to the Protestant Religion and the Nation in general.

This Institution notwithstanding its general Utility, has met with some Difficulties in its Progress. The Priests and Papists seeing the good Effects like to ensue, with Respect to the Protestant Religion, have erected Schools in several Parts of the Kingdom to counteract the good Effects of the Protestant Charter-Schools, and they have greatly threatened those Parents that shall suffer their Children to go into them; and have frequently forced them to steal their Children out of the Schools: And thereby, except in Times of Scarcity of Provisions, some Difficulty arises in getting a sufficient Number of Popish Children to fill the Schools; and then in the Country great Numbers of low Popish Schools are dispersed all over the Kingdom, where the lower Class of People send their Children at a very small Expence to be taught to read and write, (even at so low a Price as 2d. or 3d. a Week) and all the Masters of these Schools are Papists, directly contrary to several Acts of Parliament, which directs no Schoolmaster shall teach, unless he be a Protestant, and licenced by the Bishop: And even Protestants, for want of Protestant Masters are forced to send their Children to these Masters; though every Beneficed Clergyman is obliged by Statute, to take an Oath before the Bishop to keep a Protestant Master in every Parish, to instruct his Parishioners in the *English* Language, or to pay the accustomed Salary for that Purpose, which I am informed is 40*s.* a Year, too small at this Time a Day for the Purpose.

It is quite unnecessary, to enlarge upon the ill Consequences of having these Country Masters all Papists, or of the great Benefits that would arise to the Protestant Religion, if a sufficient Number of Protestant Schoolmasters, were established through the Kingdom, to instruct Children of the lower Class of People, when young, and before they are fit to Labour, in Reading, Writing, and the Church Catechism;

creased of late Years out of all Proportion, and so it has been found by some late Returns, owing, I am apprehensive, on one Hand, to the Non-

and that they were to be allowed some small Stipend, which with some trifling Matter, to be given by the Parents of the Children, would be sufficient to encourage many Protestant Masters to accept of the Care of such Schools, and make them very diligent; for the general Complaint is, that Masters cannot be got to settle, without having some certain Allowance: Indeed the common *Irish* are fond of instructing their Children, if they had Opportunity.

Now, if the Charter-School Society were enabled, by an Enlargement of their Funds, to extend the charitable and useful Views of their Charter and Institution, by appointing Several such Schoolmasters in proper Places, throughout the Kingdom, under certain Regulations, and endowing these with some small Salaries, many Gentlemen think it would be of the utmost Utility.

Something of this Kind was established in *Scotland*, by a Charter of Queen *Ann's*, in 1709; and a Fund was given for that Purpose, and a Society was incorporated with Power to receive Benefactions and to erect Schools, for the Instructions of the poor Natives of the Highlands of *Scotland*, in the Christian Religion, and to teach them to read; and in Pursuance of these Powers, many Day Schools were erected in different Parts of that Kingdom, and endowed with small Salaries: I have been told, there are now about 12 or 1500 of them. The Greatness of the Success of that Institution, does abundantly answer the Wisdom and Humanity of the Design, for there are few of the lower Class of People in that Kingdom, that are not of the Established Religion of that Country, and cannot read and write.

Perhaps, if the Charter-School Society were enabled to assist the Parochial and Diocesan Schools, and promote their original laudable Intention, it might answer several good Purposes, for the common Sort of People of this Country have good Understanding, and are very keen and sharp in their own Way, enable them to read and write, and enlarge thereby ever so little their Understanding, and you bid fair to make them good Subjects and good Protestants, and it will make their Youth, when they grow into Manhood, more governable and tractable in Life.

residence

residence and Indolence of our Clergy, and to the Remissness and Negligence of the Protestants in general ; and on the other, to the indefatigable Assiduity and Zeal of the Popish Clergy, and the People in general of that Persuasion ; and, I am afraid, in a great Measure, to the great Number of Jesuits and Regulars that have of late come into the Kingdom.

THE other Charity has for its Object, the rearing and making useful Members of Society, a great Number of helpless deserted Infants, that must otherwise inevitably perish. There are two or three and twenty hundred Children supported by this Charity ; and indeed it is become now of universal Concern, Children from all Parts of the Kingdom being sent in there.

THESE two Charities have been in the utmost Want of Money and Distress of late Years ; the Charter Schools, from the Number of Children sent in, and Dearth of Provisions, were obliged to call in the Money they had upon Securities, and all the Debts they could possibly get in, and upon the Corresponding Society in *London* for their Assistance and Support, who assisted them with that Zeal they have been ever remarkable for, and without which, and some accidental Legacies and Charities to a considerable Amount, it would have been impossible for them to subsist. Indeed the Zeal and public Spirit of one Gentleman, A Member of the House of Commons in the West of this Kingdom, who ought to be mentioned with Honour, and who has not only a Charter School for forty Children, but a Nursery for the Support of one hundred within his Demesne, and under his immediate Care and Protection, seeing the Distress the Society was likely to be re-

duced to, two Years ago, generously offered to support them from the Beginning of the Year till the Parliament could relieve them, both Charter School and Nursery, at his own Expence. A noble Example, and worthy so good a Man.

THE Foundling Hospital was in like Distress; for they owed to Nurses in the Country, who had their Children to the Number of between 1400 or 1500, near £2000, some for two, some more Years nursing, and they had no Money to pay them; their Credit was so low by the Means of this great Arrear, that no Woman could be got to take the Children from the Poor House to nurse, and many coming in daily, they were obliged to put several Children upon one wet Nurse, and great Numbers were in the utmost Danger of starving, had not the Governors raised a Sum of £1800, in a Mortgage of their little Estate about the Work-house, from a Banker of this City, who advanced that Sum from a Motive of Zeal for so good a Work, more than the Goodness of the Security; for, in Truth, it was but very scanty, and ill circumstanced *.

I MENTION these two particular Charities, because I am well acquainted with them. I am sure there are several others; such as, the *Hibernian* School for the Support of the Children of Soldiers; the Marine Society for those of Sailors, that are of great Use and Benefit to the Kingdom, and do great Honour to the Charity and Humanity of the People of this Country.

* A like Distress befel this Charity, this very Year 1769, and were obliged to apply to the same Banker, who with great Humanity again in like Manner relieved them.

MANY

MANY Gentlemen in *England*, having been informed of the Object of the two above great Charities, and that they had but a small Fund of Estate, and were supported entirely by uncertain and occasional Funds, wondered how the Governors could venture to undertake so great a certain Expence upon so uncertain a Fund, where so many thousands were in Danger of starving; for that the great Charities there, had some 10,000*l.* some 11 or 12,000*l.* a Year certain Income or Estate, or else they would never venture to undertake so great an Expence. The Foundling Hospital in *Paris* has certain Taxes, to a great Amount, appropriated to their Support; Taxes on Luxuries, on Diversions, on the Play-houses, so much on every Ticket made use of there.

MENTION all this, to be the better entitled to take the Liberty to submit it to the Legislature, whether it would not be a right and a proper Measure, to lay some certain Tax on Absentees of all Kinds, and to appropriate it to the Support of the above two great Charities, and such other as they should think fit, to be accountable to Parliament. Perhaps when the Tax was applied to so good a Purpose, the Persons that pay it, as well as those that grant it, would be induced the rather to come into it, and rest satisfied, that it would be free from the Objection raised formerly, to the Tax of 4*s.* in the Pound, on Absentees, and which was paid for so many Years.

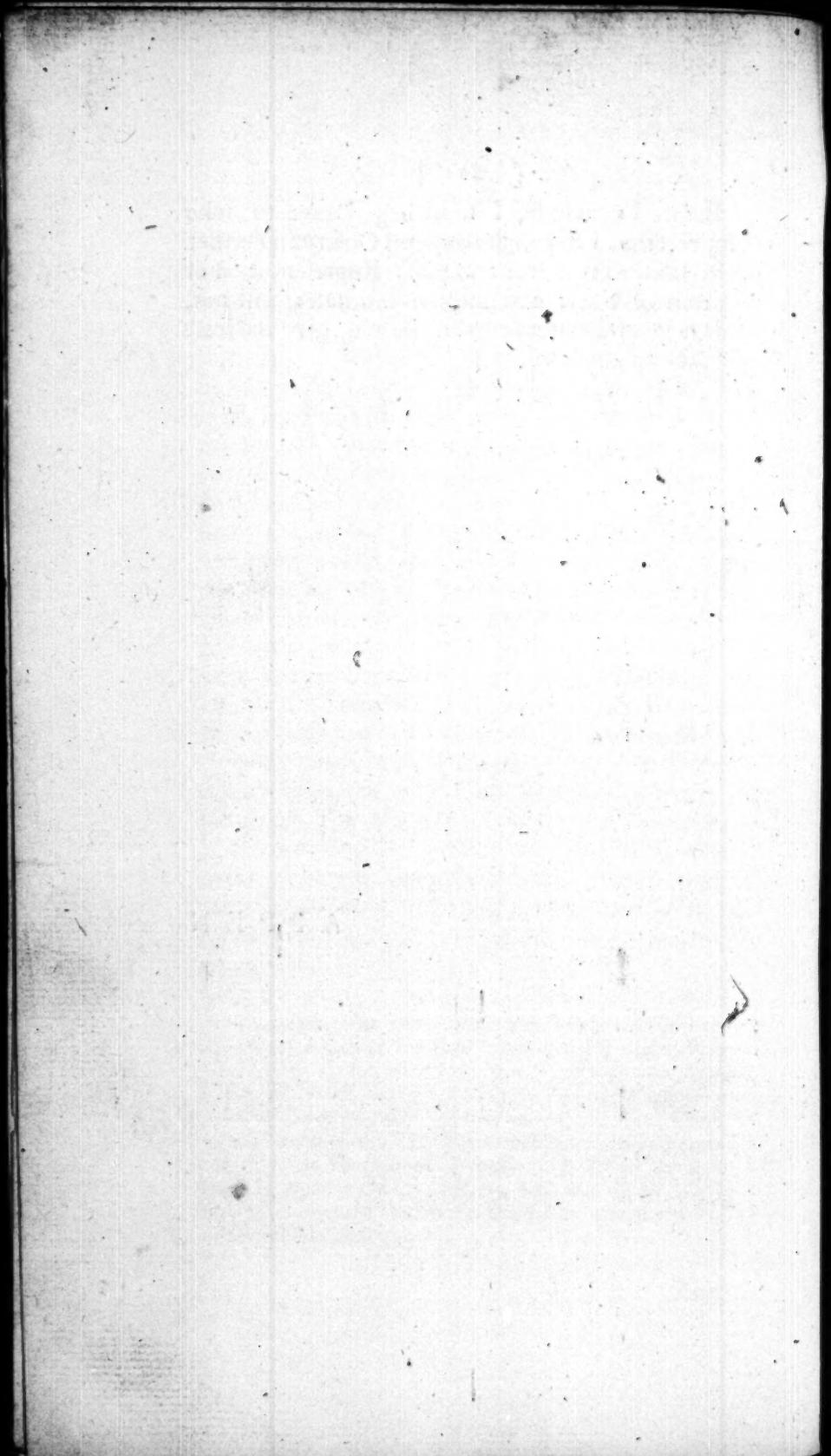
As I am sure I have tired the Reader, by this Time, I shall beg Leave to conclude with the following Observation: That notwithstanding all I have said, to draw the Attention of the People of *Ireland* to Agriculture, Manufactures, and Commerce, important Objects indeed! yet, as I think, this

this Island is in great Danger of being attacked, whenever a new War breaks out, we should be on our Guard, and now in Time of Peace, the most proper, let us set about establishing a useful and national Militia * for our Defence, and train our Protestants up to the Use of Arms, that they may, in Time of Danger, protect us from both foreign and intestine Enemies, many of which, I am afraid, we have amongst us, who, upon such an Occasion, may be more dangerous than our open and avowed Enemies; for, as hath been observed by a noble Author, who has lately wrote the History of the Reign of *Henry the Second*, that, Exercise in Arms, encreases the Strength of a Nation, which, remaining long unemployed, is very apt to decay, and sink into an infirm and effeminate Softness, particularly, when People are much addicted to Commerce, the mercantile Spirit prevailing over the military, more than is consistent with the Safety or Virtue of a State. To keep up the Energy of both these Spirits, in a proper Degree, and without Prejudices to each other, is a very important, and a very difficult Part of political Wisdom, which has been performed in few Governments either ancient or modern.

* Some time ago, there was in some of the public Papers a Scheme of a Militia, for 8 or 12,000 Men, and a Rotation proposed of one fourth part of that Number, to be Annually embodied, which would not be more than the Expence of so many of the Army, and by that means, in four Years the whole Militia of the Kingdom would be trained and exercised, and in a few Years all our Protestants would be bred up in some Measure to the use of Arms, and they made Useful in Time of Danger, to Protect and Defend us against any Foreign or Domestick Enemies.

Before I conclude, I must beg Leave to take Notice, that I hope, the general Observations that have been drawn from a plain Representation of Matters of Fact, and publick Estimates, will not, as it never was intended they should, give the least Offence to any one.

A P P E N.



A P P E N D I X.

THE very favourable and honourable Reception and Notice taken by Parliament, and the Merchants of this Kingdom, of this Treatise, and the Attention given to it by the Publick, as appears by the quick Sale for the two former Editions, demand the highest Gratitude and Respect, and the utmost Endeavours to make this third Edition as perfect and compleat as a Work of this complicated Nature can be, and therefore this Edition is presented to the Public, not only with the List of Absentees, brought down to the present Year 1769, but greatly amended; which might reasonably have been expected, as it was impossible to be fully informed, on the first Publication, of all the Gentlemen that have Estates in the different Parts of the Kingdom, and especially as they were unknown and unheard of, save only within the narrow Limits of their Tenants, being resident Abroad, and not laying out any Part of their Incomes, nor employing the Labourer or Artificer, nor paying towards the National Taxes, or Support of the Civil or Military Establishments of the Kingdom, and notwithstanding all the Pains that

M

have

have been taken to make these Lists as perfect as may be; yet, no Doubt, some Omissions and Mistakes will be still found; but, upon the Whole, am confident that the Drains we labour under, are much more than here estimated and set out. Indeed the Totals annexed to the former Lists were abundantly sufficient to support all the Arguments here made Use of; but how much stronger must they be, when, in Fact and Truth it appears, from the general Abstracts set forth in this Edition, that, instead of about a Million, there is a Million and an half of Money drawn out of the Nation in this Way.

AGAIN, in this Edition, by Way of Notes, many additional Observations are made on the Trade and Manufactures of *Ireland*, and the Means to encourage, improve, and extend them, in which the Author has been greatly assisted by many knowing and experienced Men in that Way, and supplied with Hints and Remarks for that Purpose, which he trusts, some public spirited Gentlemen of more Power and Abilities, may improve and carry into Execution for the Good and Welfare of the Kingdom.

SEVERAL Matters mentioned in this Treatise have received material Alterations, by the Wisdom of Parliament, since the first Publication of it, which has occasioned some Observations and Remarks in the Notes, and particularly by the Act of last Session of the 7th G. III. c. ii. whereby every Person who shall have, on the 25th of December, 1767, or who shall, at any Time, between the 25th of December, 1767, and 25th of December, 1769, inclusive, any Salary, Profits of Employment, Fees, or Pensions, in this Kingdom, shall pay to His Majesty four Shillings out of

of every twenty Shillings which they shall receive, or be entitled unto, by Reason of such Salaries, &c. over and above the Charges of executing said Employments, unless they shall live and actually reside, six Kalendar Months at least, in each of said Years, in the Kingdom.

WHICH Tax or Duty, out of such Salaries or Pensions, shall be stopped and deducted during the Term aforesaid, by the Vice-Treasurers or such Persons who are to pay the same, and they are to pay the same to the Vice-Treasurers, to be accounted for to His Majesty.

AND the said Tax out of the Profits and Fees of such Absentee's Office, shall be stopped by the Deputy of such absent Person, and paid to the Vice-Treasurers, to be accounted for as aforesaid, and such Deputy shall, within one Month after the Tax becomes due, give in upon Oath, an Account of the nett Profits of such Employment, before a Baron of the Exchequer, or two Justices of the Peace, which Account shall be sent to the Vice-Treasurers; and, in Case of Omission or Neglect by such Deputy, he shall be incapable of exercising or holding such Deputation, and shall forfeit One Hundred Pounds, one Moiety to the King, and the other to the Person who shall sue for the same.

THE Secretary of the Commissioners of the Revenue, the Agents of the Regiments, and the Agents of Persons entitled to receive any Salary or Pensions, shall, respectively, on or before the 1st of February, Yearly, deliver in upon Oath, before the Persons aforesaid, to the best of their Knowledge, a List or Account of such of the Officers of the Revenue, Officers of Regiments, above the Degree of a Field Officer, and of the

Persons entitled to receive such Salaries and Pensions, who shall be absent six Months in the Year, ending 25th of *December* next preceding, and in Case of Neglect or Refusal, such Secretary or Agent shall be disabled to hold such Office.

THIS Act not to extend to charge with said Tax, any of the Descendants of His Majesty's Royal Grand-father, nor the Lord Lieutenant or other Chief Governor, or their Principal Secretary, or to Officers of such Regiments as shall be commanded Abroad on the King's Service, nor to Officers under the Degree of a Field Officer, nor to the Half-pay Officers, or Widows of Officers.

THIS Tax, with several others, is appropriated to the Payment of the Interest of the National Debt; and in Case of any Overplus, to the Payment of the Principal; for the Act directs from and after Payment of the Interest of the Loan, and as often as any Surplus or Exceeding, amounting to 5000*l*. shall be raised, then there shall be a Drawing of the Debentures, in the Manner as directed by the Act, giving twenty Days Notice, and a Payment of so much of the Principal and Interest within twenty Days after such Drawing, and Interest to cease on them after.

THE Propriety and Usefulness of this Tax is universally acknowledged, and therefore we can have no Doubt but the same patriotic Principles and Zeal which actuated the last Parliament to pass such a Law, will influence the present to continue the Tax, and also endeavour to extend it to other Classes of Absentees.

AND therefore it may be useful, not only to point out such Defects in the present Law, as in some Measure frustrates the good Purposes for which

which it was designed, and submit to the Wisdom of Parliament such Remedies as occur; but to suggest to what other Classes of Absentees this good Law may be extended, and in what Manner, so as to render the Scheme still more useful and beneficial to the Kingdom.

As to the first of these Particulars, the four Shilling Tax is payable out of every twenty Shillings *a Year*, which the Person shall receive, or be entitled unto, by Reason of such Salary, Profits of Employments, Fees, or Pensions. Now, where a Person does not continue a Year in Office, as frequently is the Case of the Vice Treasurers of *Ireland*, and many others, for we find Employments fluctuate, as the Ministry or their Favourites do, how is such a Person to be taxed? It seems to be most reasonable, in Proportion to the Time he continues in Office, or has the Pension.

SUPPOSE an Officer or Pensioner, liable to the Tax, comes at the End of the Year, *in Person*, and demands his whole Money, how is the Paymaster to know how long he has been absent, and if liable to the Tax; for, by the Act, he cannot swear the Principal? Why should he not be empowered and required to swear the Principal, as well as his Agent?

WHERE a Pension or Office is held *in Trust* for another (as frequently may be the Case) for one of these Absentees may give up or surrender his Office or Pension, or get a Grant of either to a Resident in Trust, that does not seem to be within the express Words of the Act; and yet no one will say, in Point of Reason, but the Tax should be paid out of that Pension or Office, for the

the Profits are spent Abroad, and therefore the Act should extend to them, and such Resident, Pensioner, or Officer, should be required, before they are paid their Pensions or Salaries, or be entitled to Fees, to discover the Matter on Oath.

THE ACT requires, that the Commissioners of the Revenue, the Agents of Regiments, the Agents of Persons entitled to receive any Salary or Pensions, before the 1st of *February* in each Year, should give in upon Oath, to the best of their Knowledge, a List or Account of the Officers of the Revenue, Officers of Regiments, or Persons entitled to Salaries or Pensions, who shall be absent six Months in the Year; but the Act does not fix any particular Time for Payment of the Tax or Money, due by the Act, though the Tax is, by the Act, due the 25th of *December* in each Year, and by this Means no one can say what the Tax amounts to, till the Agents come in and pay the Tax, nor till People bring in their Debentures from the Auditor General's Office to the Treasury, to be paid. Some Time should be fixed for the Payment, or to be charged with the Tax.

OFFICERS Widows are exempted by the Act, and are not to pay the Tax; the Intention certainly was, that they should not pay the Tax out of the little Pittance they have, as an Officer's Widow, but, under Pretence of this Exception, Officer's Widows that may have large Pensions may contend, though otherwise clearly liable to the Tax, that they shall be excused.

THE Agent of the Pensioners swears, that such and such, being Absentees, are liable to the Tax, but says nothing as to the rest. Should say, to the

the best of his Knowledge and Belief the rest, naming them, are Resident, and not liable to the Tax.

THESE are only some of the Defects that appear on the Face of the Act, to Gentlemen of Knowledge and Experience in Business of this Kind, others may occur, who, no Doubt in proper Time, will suggest them, so as they may be amended.

I AM sorry to say it, this Tax has not produced so much as the sanguine Hopes of many Lovers to their Country made them suggest, for it has not been found to exceed £. 20,000 a Year, of which £. 15,000 arose last February, from the Revenue, Army, and other Officers and Pensioners, who were Absentees. It is imagined the Tax would have rose considerably higher, had not the good Intention of the Legislature been in some Measure frustrated by the above Means and Defects, which it is to be hoped their Wisdom will prevent for the future.

As the Produce of this Tax was applied to the Fund for Payment of the Interest and Principal of the Loan, the £. 15,000 paid in, as above-mentioned, occasioned a Drawing under the Act, of so much of the Principal of the National Debt, which gave the Creditors of the Public some Trouble and Uneasiness, never having before so large a Sum paid them at once, seldom above £. 5000 at a Time.

IN my Apprehensions, the Gentlemen that advance their Money, on publick Emergencies, for the Use and Benefit of the Nation, are not in this Kingdom encouraged, or so well treated as they deserve, nor indeed is the Use made of the publick Funds, or of the Nation's being in Debt, that

Wisdom

Wisdom or true Policy would suggest, nor can it, whilst the National Funds are managed in the Way they now are, and are upon so uncertain and precarious a Footing, by such frequent and small Payments.

MANY Men think that a Nation's being in Debt, to a reasonable Amount (with Respect to its Circumstances) is rather beneficial; and it is much stranger so if they are in Debt, as is the Case of *Ireland*, only to themselves, as there will be then no Drain of its Cash, for the Interest, to Foreigners; but this must be considered, when the National Debt and Funds are so managed and circumstanced, as that they may be made Use of as a certain Negotiable Security, for Merchants, Traders, and all monied Men, to lay out and deposit their Money, for any Time they may think proper, or suits their Convenience, and from whence they may have a reasonable Profit or Interest during that Time, and a Certainty of getting in their Money, by a Sale or Assignment, whenever they have Occasion. There is nothing in the World so beneficial to Trade as a National Debt, made Use of for such a Purpose. But surely it is an extraordinary Thing (I will not call it absurd) to see, in one Gazette, an Advertisement, applying to the Public for a Loan of £. 50,000, and another, informing the Public Creditors, there was to be an immediate Drawing and Payment of £. 15,000 of the National Debt.

WE can have no Doubt but, when People in Power are apprized of these Matters, they will consult the public Good, and endeavour to rectify such Measures, and something of this Kind ought the rather to be done, as in all Probability, in the Course

Course we now are in, we shall encrease rather than diminish our Debt, and perhaps if the Debt can be kept within moderate Bounds (which is the great Danger) it may be beneficial in other Particulars, as we are circumstanced.

As to extending this Tax to other Classes of Absentees, besides those enumerated in the above Act, it certainly may be done, and the Benefits are obvious, from what has been mentioned the Estates of Gentlemen whose Incomes makes up so large a Sum in the List of Absentees, have risen most amazingly, perhaps Double, nay Treble, within this last twenty five Years, and are likely to do so every Day. What has been the Occasion of this? Why chiefly the Improvements of our Lands, and thereby a great Encrease to our Trade and Manufactures, and nothing has encouraged the Improvement of our Land so much, as the great Spirit that has been exerted of late through the Kingdom, not only for making all our old Roads good and commodious, but cutting new Ones, through large districts where no Roads were before, which in Fact, is an Acquisition to the Publick, of new Countries and People, for thereby they are encouraged to cultivate their Ground, and bring the Produce of it to Markets, they were in Effect, Strangers to before.

I HAVE been informed, by a Gentleman in public Station, who has had both Opportunity, and made it his Business to be truly informed of the Taxes raised upon the People of Ireland, for the repairing and making of Highways; he says it has been rising for many Years last past, and that now it exceeds £150,000 Yearly.

Now, not one Farthing of this very large Annual Tax of £150,000, goes out of the Pocket of the Absentee Landlord, for it is all paid by the Tenant, or Person in actual Possession of the Land, and yet no Person in the World has a greater Benefit by it, than he: for his Estate rises and is likely to do so, as the Roads are amended and his Lands thereby improved. Can there be any one Reason suggested why these Gentlemen should not contribute, in some Sort, towards the Payment of a Tax they have so much Benefit by?

SUPPOSE all Estates of Persons, who are not resident six Months in the Year, should be liable to a double Road Tax, one to be paid as usual by the Tenant or Possessor, and the other by the Tenant also, on the Collector of such Taxes Receipt, and the Tenant to be allowed in his Rent, for so much as the Receipt amounts to, by such Absentee Landlord or his Agent, and the Sum to arise by this double Road Tax to be applied for the Repair of Roads within the Barony by the Grand-jury. Or suppose a Shilling in the Pound, or any other Sum, or an Acreable Tax was laid on all Absentees Estates either by Parliament or a Power given to the Grand Jury for that Purpose, and the Money to be paid by the Tenant, and he to be allowed for it out of his Rent, and the Money to be applied under certain Restrictions and Regulations, towards easing the industrious Farmer, of some Part of this heavy Tax. But some Men will cry out at this Tax, as it would look like a Land Tax; they would not be so much alarmed at this, if they considered how many Taxes are already laid upon Land; is not this very Road Tax, on Land, all Parish Cesses and many others?

SEVERAL other Classes of Absentees may well be taxed and ought to be so, and People would be better pleased to see the Produce of them, and even that on the Placemen and Pensioners applied to the Benefit of the Public Charities, mentioned in the above Treatise who stand in great need of, and are very deserving of some National certain Support, but if that should not be judged expedient, it certainly would be better, instead of applying it to the Payment of the Loan, to appropriate it towards the easing the Manufacturer and Artificer, of some of the Taxes on the Necessaries of Life.

ENGLAND is clearing off their Debt by the Lowness of their Peace Establishment, amongst other Acts of Oeconomy, whilst *Ireland* from the Largeness of Hers, is running in Debt, in time of Peace. If our National Expences rise constantly, as they have done for some Years last past, in Time of profound Peace, what will be the Consequence in the End, or if we should be engaged in a new War, some Taxes of this Kind will become absolutely necessary, for it will puzzle our ablest Financiers to find out new Resources for Taxation. I think Gentlemen have exerted their utmost Ingenuity, even already, in finding Ways and Means to raise the Supply judged necessary for the Nation.

SOME Men think there would be a great Saving of our usual Expences if we dropped our public Works and other internal Expences and Charities, and that it would be better to apply the Money that has usually gone that Way, to Government Uses: there certainly would be a great Saving, but which is of most Public Utility.

I WISH Men that find Fault that way would consider, if that be bad Oeconomy and Mismanagement of the Public Money, what is the great Extravagancies and Excesses they will find in the Civil and Military Establishment of this Kingdom in Pensions and many other Articles. Every Country applies some Part of its Revenues towards Publick Works, and Purposes useful to its Manufactures, Trade and Commerce, *England* does greatly so; see what great Sums are given there Yearly, towards public Charities, between £30,000 and £40,000 Yearly, to the Foundling Hospital alone, and other large Sums to its Infant Colonies, whereby their Trade and Commerce one Day will be greatly encreased. The Sums we give to encrease and improve our Tillage and Lands, answers just the same Purpose, and I am sorry to say it, a great Part of our wild and uncultivated Lands, that lie quite remote from Trade and Markets, stand in as much need of Assistance.

I own it, I do not wish to see any Schemes adopted or gone into, that may encrease our Debt or National Expences, because let some Men think what they may, the Taxes we already pay lie very heavy on us, and our Trade and Manufactures, and they are not well acquainted with the Circumstances of this Country who think otherwise. They see only the Houses and Tables of Men possessed of beneficial Employments, or otherwise in affluent Circumstances, and are not acquainted with the wretched Habitation and way of Living, of the lower Clas of People, nay of the Manufacturers, Artificer, and Farmer. Perhaps what Taxes *Ireland* raises, are more in Proportion than what *England* does, considering its being cramped in Trade, and other

other Disadvantages, and the great Difference there is between *England* and *Ireland*, with respect to the Trade of *England*, the Value of its Lands, Personal Effects, and Number of its Inhabitants.

IF Gentlemen would make some Computations on the following Heads, they would find this to be a Truth, not to be controverted, and that upon Consideration, no truer or juster Plan or Estimate can be found or adapted, for such a Purpose.

The *French* compute the Rents of *Great-Britain* at forty Eight Million; by others it is rated at Sixty Million, but suppose it at forty Million the lowest.

THE Rents of *Ireland* being upwards of Eleven Million of Acres, at Four Shillings an Acre, are upwards of Two Million, which is near the Truth, but suppose at Six Shillings, which is Three Million.

THE Personal Estate of *England*, viz. Jewels, Plate, Pictures, Furniture, Shipping, Merchandise, Stock, &c. at least Twenty Million, probably forty.

THAT of *Ireland* infinitely inferior, but suppose Four Million.

THE Souls in *Great-Britain*, about Eight Million, that of *Ireland* about Two Million.

THE Cash of *England* about Ten Million, that of *Ireland* about £1,200,000.

THE Funds of *Great-Britain* produce Yearly, about Nine Million; Four Million of which is applied to the Payment of the Interest of their National Debt, and the other Five Million, for the Current Services of the Year.

THE Annual Expences of each Soul in *England*, is computed at ten Pounds, Yearly; in *Ireland*,

thre^e

three Pounds ; if the People of *England* would live as poorly as those in *Ireland*, for about one Year and a Half the Debt of *England* might be paid off nearly.

Ireland raises as her Funds, about or under one Million Yearly.

Scotland by the Union, has all the Benefits and Advantages of having the Trade of *England* laid open to them, and many others, and yet by the Act of Union, whenever there is raised on Land in *England* £1,997,873. 8s. 5d. there shall be raised a further Sum of £48000, clear of all Charges on *Scotland*, and so in Proportion, which is about one Part in Forty one.

FINIS.

